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# The PRODUCER

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No. 11



## APRIL 1928

*Official Organ of the*  
**AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK  
ASSOCIATION**

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

# *The* **Denver Market**

from all indications will have a very broad outlet for all classes of cattle the coming spring and summer for restocking of ranges in Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, and other states. Later in the season, as usual, demand for feeding cattle at Denver from states east of there will absorb heavy supplies.

The Denver yards are now enlarging their cattle facilities 20 per cent, or over 200 pens, to handle the growing business at that market. Other changes in the yards will be made to give shippers the best possible service in the handling of their cattle.



# FRANKLIN BLACKLEG VACCINE



## Two Ways to Make More Money!

One Uncertain, the Other Sure

**F**IRST—Sell at high prices. There's necessarily much fluctuation in selling prices that cannot be overcome.

Second—Eliminate all Blackleg loss. Dead calves are dead losses. It doesn't take many of them to put a crimp in even the best season's profits.

But here the cattleman absolutely does control. The means of overcoming such loss is in his own hands. He can avoid it entirely if he will.

Calves that are properly vaccinated do not take Blackleg. They are immunized. They thrive and condition for market regardless of the prevalence of Blackleg infection.

The cattleman often makes far more money from his investment in Blackleg vaccine than from any other expenditure of the year.

Especially is this true if the thoroughly dependable, life-immunity FRANKLIN brand is used.

Then his calves are not only safe from Blackleg, but he may also be absolutely sure that no other kind of infection has been introduced with the vaccine.

This important safeguard is a comparatively recent development worked out by Dr. Franklin, and the process of which is patented.

Franklin Blackleg Vaccine is not only potent against Blackleg for life immunity with one dose, but is also non-toxic and sterile.

It is a new and different product, decidedly superior to all previous forms of immunizing agents.

Its cost is but slightly higher than that of ordinary vaccine, due to the large-volume production.

If not obtainable at your local Drug Store, write direct to nearest Franklin office, as listed below.

Valuable information on Blackleg control is given in THE CALF BOOK. A copy gladly mailed free upon request.

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Write your name and address on the lines below, detach, and mail to nearest office. Copy of THE CALF BOOK will be sent without cost or obligation. If booklet on Hemorrhagic Septicemia is also desired, check here. ( )

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# Costs do not fix Cattle Prices

CATTLE feeders and packers have a lot in common. One of the most striking points of mutual interest is that neither is able to sell on the basis of cost.

Because his product is perishable, the packer has to sell for the best price he can get. Sometimes it is a good price; sometimes it is not. But whether good or bad it is his definite guide in his buying operations and he knows from experience that he cannot long afford to pay more for his live animal supply than is warranted by the market price on meats.

The feeder must do the same thing, if he is to prosper. He must figure the value of his finished cattle and buy his feeders accordingly. If he pays too much for feeders, he is going to lose money when his finished cattle are marketed.

Careful buying of feeders and a good job of finishing should bring satisfactory profits.

The live stock and meat business is fundamental to agriculture: Let's keep it good.

*F. Edson White*  
President

**ARMOUR AND COMPANY**  
U.S.A.

# THE PRODUCER

## THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK MONTHLY

Volume IX

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Number 11

### Brahman or Zebu Cattle

BY WILL C. BARNES

*Washington, D. C.*

**A**BOUT THIRTY YEARS AGO a well-known Texas cattleman was on the program of the annual meeting of the American National Live Stock Association for a talk on "The Zebus, or Sacred Humpbacked Cattle of India." They were a breed then almost wholly unknown to the rangers in attendance, and until the speaker passed around some photographs of the animals he aroused considerable interest in them. One look, however, at the pictures, and any budding enthusiasm for the Indian breed was completely squelched; for the Zebus bore little resemblance to the kind of cattle with which these men from the western plains were acquainted.

#### Characteristics of the Breed

The pictures showed an animal with a rather small, oddly shaped head, with a large, protruding frontal bone, surmounted by two clumsy-looking, antelope-like, spiked horns. The eyes were sleepy, and the expression of the face was decidedly stupid. A pair of long, pendulous ears hung down on the sides of the head, exactly like the ears of a Belgian

hare. "Look just like the ears on one of old Jim Allen's 'Jinglebob' steers," remarked one ruddy-faced old-timer from the Marfa country in west Texas. Furthermore, these new additions to the fauna of the Southwest were ornamented with a huge dewlap, which began at the chin and extended to between the forelegs like a great, wrinkled apron. In many individuals this dewlap ran along the entire belly, often hanging down six to eight inches at the navel or sheath.

As if all this were not enough to put the "Injun sign" on the new breed, each was ornamented with an enormous hump on its withers, from ten to sixteen inches high—for all the world like the fin of a man-eating shark. On the whole, these oddities in the animal world were about as ungainly, misshapen, unprepossessing specimens of the genus *Bos* as anyone had ever seen, except in some freak museum among two-headed calves, six-legged pigs, or four-legged roosters.

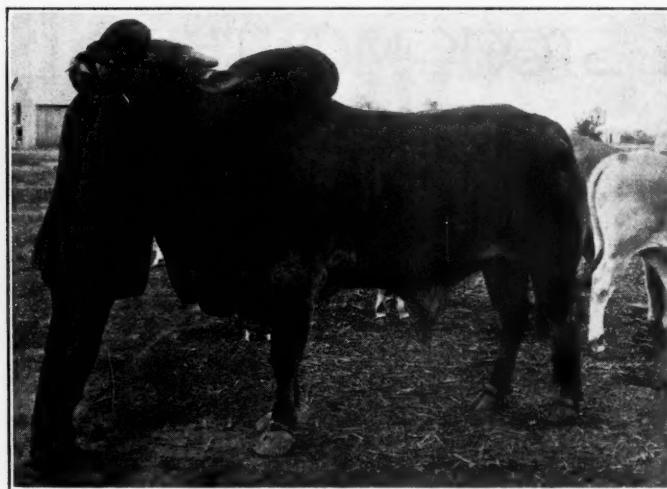
The speaker claimed for them many excellent qualities, which he was sure made them a splendid



HERD OF PURE-BRED BRAHMAN CATTLE  
(King Ranch, Kingsville, Texas)

breed for our range country. Especially did he stress their immunity to the bite of the Texas fever tick—just then a burning question in the Southwest. Also, flies did not seem to worry them at all.

But they were not our kind of cattle; hence his address fell on deaf ears. Even if they had no other



PURE-BLOOD BRAHMAN BULL  
(Borden Ranch, Mackenzie, Texas)

defects, according to range ideas, their colors were against them. All over the West, rangemen were then breeding for reds, which were the favorite shade everywhere. Kansas feeder-buyers would reject a fine, upstanding, well-built black or brindle steer, and keep red ones that lacked about everything worth having in a good beef steer. Why, then, try to interest anyone in a breed that was generally a silver-gray, or the color of weak coffee and milk?

#### Little Noticed at First

For several years these Hindu cattle attracted little attention in the range country. But at the conventions those Texans from down along the coast, where ticks and flies make life miserable for all animals, and where the summer temperatures are high and long-continued, began to talk about their Zebus as a breed worth its place on the southwestern ranges. Reports drifted up from Fort Worth and other slaughtering points of the high percentages dressed out by grade Zebu steers. They even began to take first prizes over our favorite Herefords at the fat-stock shows in those Texas cities. Surely, this matter should be looked into! Maybe it was not good looks or pretty colors, after all, that should govern a choice in beef breeds. Perhaps these "ornery, flop-eared, humpbacked monstrosities," as one old ranger described them, might be better than they looked.

A fairly comprehensive trip through the coastal plains of southern Texas in the summer of 1927, covering the ranges from Brownsville to Laredo and

as far east along the Gulf as Beaumont, showed the breed to have made tremendous inroads into the old familiar range breeds. Zebu bulls certainly stamp their offspring with their peculiar characteristics in a most surprising manner. And everywhere in southern Texas one saw signs of Zebu or Brahman blood. That is, everywhere except in the dairy herds. "No, sir," said the owner of a large herd of Jerseys; "no Brahman blood for me! Why, say," he continued, as my lips formed the question, "you can put 5 per cent Brahman blood into the gentlest old milk-cow that ever lived, and her offspring will kick the hat off your head the instant you touch one of her teats. They can outkick a mule any old day. When they aren't kicking, they are switching their long tails, which must be tied down, or you'll have your eyes cut out by those whip-like caudal appendages."

However, the Brahman blood has ruined the color scheme of every herd of cattle in Texas south of Fort Worth.

#### Early Importations

Variously called "Hindus," "Humpbacked Cattle," "Sacred Indian Cattle," or "Zebus," the United States Department of Agriculture has established the name "Brahman" as the official designation of these cattle. The word is, of course, derived from Brahma—the name of the Hindu divinity or god.

According to Al McFaddin, of Victoria, Texas—one of the best-informed men in Texas on these Indian cattle—and other authorities,\* the first of them came to South Carolina as early as 1849 or 1850. The importation consisted of a bull and two cows. Little is known of the fate of these animals, except that they were later taken to Atlanta, Georgia, by a man named Richard Peters, who, it is claimed, sold a number of the offspring to various southern planters. They left no permanent trace of their presence in that region, however.

About 1860 an Englishman, interested in American agriculture, visited the sugar plantation of a Mr. Barrow, or Borrell, in southern Louisiana, near Baton Rouge. At that time practically all the work on the southern plantations was done by oxen. The Englishman criticized the cattle then in use as being too light-weight and very slow. He also observed how they were tormented by flies, ticks, and insect pests generally. He had spent some years in India, and told his host about the sacred Hindu cattle—of their great size and weight, their rapid walk, and their freedom from flies and ticks. The Englishman promised, on his return to England, to send his friend a few head with which to improve the local stock. En route home, he stopped in India and secured two

\*Farmers' Bulletin 1361, "Brahman Cattle," U. S. Department of Agriculture.

bulls, which he carried with him to England, whence he shipped them to New Orleans. Reports differ on this shipment, some claiming it consisted of two bulls and three cows, while others maintain that there were only two bulls. There is no written record of the matter. These cattle are said to have reached Mr. Barrow some time in 1861. Descendants of them were bought by a Colonel Shannon, who, in 1866, took them to his ranch near Galveston, Texas. According to Mr. McFaddin, these were the first Brahman cattle to reach Texas.

A couple of years afterwards the late J. A. McFaddin, father of Al McFaddin, bought the Shannon Brahmans and moved them to his ranch near Victoria, Texas. The breed has been raised on the McFaddin ranch from that day to this.

#### Cattle Begin to Attract Attention

Shortly after the Shannon herd reached Texas, a man named Miller came to that state from the East, driving with him a small bunch of cattle. On the west-bound trail he camped for a night in Louisiana, near the Barrow plantation, where one of Barrow's imported Brahman bulls got into Miller's herd and served one of his cows. The result was a bull calf which showed every indication of his Hindu ancestry. From this one bull calf Miller raised quite a herd of grade Brahmans. About 1871 he sold his entire herd—some three hundred head—to Captain Kennedy, one of Texas' big ranchmen, who took them to his pastures west of Corpus Christi. A few years later, about 1875, Captain Kennedy, pleased with his new cattle, sent an agent to Louisiana with orders to visit the Barrow plantation and pick up the best of the Brahman cattle to be found in that region. About twenty head were shipped from New Orleans to Corpus Christi; but they all died inside the first year or two. However, so many native cows were served by the bulls in the shipment before they died as to form the nucleus of a good-sized herd of half-breed Brahmans. A number of other small shipments of the Brahmans were brought into the vicinity of Victoria, most of which were bought by the McFaddins, both of whom were, and always have been, enthusiasts for the breed.

"We found them eminently fitted for Texas ranges and climatic conditions," said Al McFaddin. "The young things grew fast and were always fat. The cows were very regular breeders, and, owing to some peculiar waxy secretion of their skins, flies, ticks, and insect pests did not seem to trouble the cattle with even a very small infusion of Brahman blood."

It was a generally accepted idea that they carried a hide of unusual thickness and toughness, but tests by tanners do not bear out the thickness idea,

although veterinarians, using hypodermic needles on them, claim it is much more difficult to stick a needle into the hide of an animal with Brahman blood than others.

Authorities state that a cow with as low as a one sixty-fourth infusion of Brahman blood seems to suffer comparatively little from ticks and flies. Relative to their freedom from ticks, it is the general opinion of most men raising them that the extremely short hair of the Brahmans offers no secure hiding-place for ticks. Undoubtedly this immunity is due both to the short hair and to the waxy secretion of their hides, which causes an odor or taste offensive or objectionable to flies and ticks. Mr. McFaddin claims that the "feel" of the hide of a young Brahman cow is superior to that of any other breed. "It's as soft and velvety under one's fingers," he states, "as the cheek of your best girl."

In 1904 the famous wild-animal man, Carl Hagenbeck, of Hamburg, Germany, exhibited a large number of wild animals at the World's Fair in St. Louis. Among them were some billed as "Sacred Humpbacked Zebus from India." Al McFaddin visited the fair, saw the animals, and bought a bull named Prince and a cow from the show. The cow died without issue, but the bull headed the McFaddin herd at Victoria for many years, and is probably the great-grand-daddy of more Brahman cattle than any other bull that ever came to southwest Texas.

#### Difficulty in Getting Them Out of India

By this time—1905—the Brahman cattle were conceded to be a very useful breed for Texas, and humpbacked bulls were used on many ranches, and naturally were in big demand. There was a scarcity of pure-bloods, however, not being over half a dozen in the whole country. This was due mainly to the tremendous difficulties encountered in getting the natives to sell their animals. A large class of the Hindus will not eat meat, or allow animals of any kind to be killed. Hence persons desiring to ship live stock out of India have almost to swear away their souls to convince the devout Hindus that the cattle will not be slaughtered.

Oddly enough, while these people will not kill an animal or shed its blood, they will deliberately starve it to death in the most cold-blooded, heathenish manner imaginable. Katherine Mayo, in her book "Mother India," tells of this matter. Expressing some doubt as to her facts—for they seemed almost too dreadfully inhuman to be possible—I was recently assured personally by an Englishman who lived in India for a number of years, and also by a well-known American scientist who visited India a few years ago, that her pictures are not at all overdrawn. According to both of these men, the common method,

used by Hindus selling milk, in disposing of calves, is to tie the calves up to a post in the blazing Indian sun, and leave them slowly to die of exhaustion and starvation. The Englishman told me that at one place the cries of these poor, starving calves, of which a large number were in one pen, were so heart-rending that he and his wife were unable to stand it, and had to leave and find a stopping-place elsewhere.

White bulls, Mr. McFaddin and others found especially hard to secure, being the real sacred cattle, and the natives believing them to have charmed lives.

*[To be concluded in May issue]*

#### FOOT-AND-MOUTH IN THE ARGENTINE

BY JAMES E. POOLE

ARGENTINA'S KNOCK at the portals of North American beef trade has been less audible recently; but the effort has not been abandoned. There is a force behind the movement not to be disregarded, and that force has not been impaired by current high cost of domestic beef to consumers. That the sole obstacle to modification of present restrictions on the importation of South American beef is apprehension of foot-and-mouth disease is not open to serious dispute; otherwise such beef would already be in this market in considerable quantities.

Although intermittent alarm develops in commercial cattle circles, other branches of the industry are indifferent. What an outbreak of "aftosa," or foot-and-mouth disease, would do to the dairy industry need not be conjectured. Swine and sheep would both be hit hard—in fact, the foundations of agriculture would be jolted. There is also a suspicion that the Bureau of Animal Industry lacks the efficiency it possessed when called on to eradicate former invasions of the disease; consequently the next visit of foot-and-mouth might give it permanent footing. The only reliance in such an emergency would be the Bureau of Animal Industry, as state forces are mainly under political domination and are notoriously inefficient.

England would have barred Argentine beef from her markets long since, but for the fact that such action would seriously restrict her food supply, and that the policy of the British government is to keep the British stomach full of beef. British authorities entertain no doubt that repeated English and Scotch outbreaks of foot-and-mouth are directly traceable to infection from Argentina. Ireland, which does not import beef, is immune.\* A new British theory is that the ultra-microscopic virus of aftosa is carried in the marrow of bones and the cloths with which Argentine beef is wrapped. Orders have recently been issued for destroying such carriers. That danger from imports of South American beef exists is indicated by British insistence that "South American governments adopt measures for preventing the introduction of infection into Great Britain." This should be sufficient to discredit Argentine contention that the disease no longer exists in that country.

Lord Bledisloe, the British authority, who recently went to South America to consult Argentine *estancieros* on the subject, found, on reaching Buenos Aires, that a report was in circulation there to the effect that the British government contem-

\*[Cases of foot-and-mouth have lately been reported from Ireland.—Editor.]

plated excluding Argentine beef in consequence of many outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease. This he denied, but he did warn South American cattle-growers of the necessity for sanitary measures. Among other things, he said at Buenos Aires, with respect to foot-and-mouth disease:

"No effective preventive inoculation has been devised by our scientists, but their researches have at least made it evident that chilling and freezing carcasses is not effective in destroying the vitality of the disease germ, and that it can live in the marrow-bone of a chilled carcass more than sixty days, and on the surface of the skin for at least four or five days, with the consequent danger of carrying the disease from Argentina to distant countries like Great Britain."

This opinion from a distinguished British authority should fortify the present position of the United States Bureau of Animal Industry in excluding South American beef. It may be true that in Argentina the disease is endemic and of a moderate or benign type, but British experience has demonstrated that it transmits a virulent type to another country where introduced.

So serious has the foot-and-mouth situation become in Great Britain that the British government is insisting on more stringent regulations. The *Review of the River Plate*, commenting on Lord Bledisloe's mission, says:

"It is a pity that he was not taken to the local cattle market, where he could realize the dangers of disease and contagion from animals that are sent to that center for disposal from all parts of the country. It has been frequently asserted that the disease is in a more benign form in this country than in other parts of the world, though the way imported bulls are frequently affected in the very quarantine station would dispel that idea, especially if the animal is a heavy beast. Not infrequently they never appear thoroughly to recuperate from its effects, as importers have experienced to their cost. Some critics might affirm that our illustrious visitor did not see any infected animals during the time he was in this country, and possibly care was taken that he did not see any infected cattle, sheep, or pigs, as they are all equally susceptible to contract the disease—the pig worst of all.

The very strict veterinary inspection to be applied by this country's animal sanitary authorities will no doubt prevent any animals that show symptoms of the disease from being slaughtered; but it is doubtful if this will actually prevent the animals that may be infected, and, though apparently healthy at the time of slaughter, have actually been contaminated in transit, and their bones possess the germs of infection, though unknown to the veterinary authorities. A large number—about seventy—of veterinary officers are to be distributed all over the country to inspect fat cattle purchased on the *estancias* and whose meat is destined for export. *Estancieros* (or fatteners) are called upon to give their cooperation in eliminating the disease, and are further requested to notify any outbreaks amongst their cattle. Animals that show signs of the disease will not be permitted to be loaded on the trains, though it is possible, as already stated, that animals that to all outward appearances are free from disease may have contracted the infection on the way to the works from some of the many sources of infection that exist. All the precautions taken will not prevent cattle from being contaminated, as in most cases they have to travel for some distance along highways that infected animals have recently, possibly, passed over, and upon which they may have left much infection due to the sores on their feet and droppings from their mouths. Infection may also exist in the loading-pens, and even the railway trucks are not beyond suspicion, as they may not have been efficiently disinfected after conveying infected animals. There is also the possibility of infection in the off-loading corral, where infected cattle acquired in the local cattle market may have been received.

"It is wonderful that no effective measures have been taken with regard to fat cattle purchased in the cattle market and whose carcasses are destined for export. Fat cattle, by the time they are slaughtered, may not show the least trace of infection of the disease which is in a latent form, but the meat of such animals is just as likely to be a carrier of disease as animals when the disease has reached a more acute form and is apparent to the practical cattleman. The disease is so mys-

terious, and so little is known regarding its course, though, when large numbers of cattle were shipped on the hoof from this country, exporters considered, if these animals passed five days without showing symptoms of the disease after their arrival in the docks, it could be assumed that they were free from infection at the time of shipping, and even then outbreaks often occurred on the voyage to Europe for no apparent reason, though probably due to contaminated fodder. Live cattle exported from this country were inspected by government vets, on the *estancias*, before they were loaded on the train, and a certificate issued testifying that they were free from disease. Even then such cattle at times contracted the disease, and had to be substituted with other cattle from another district."

All this from a prominent Argentine publication is not calculated to create an impression that foot-and-mouth disease has been eradicated in the Southern Hemisphere, and emphasizes the necessity for continuance of the present policy of rigid exclusion from this market of Argentine beef, regardless of influences behind the campaign for its admission. It is evident that Argentina is to "live with" aftosa, the fact that it exists there in moderate or benignant type being responsible for apathy toward repression. All the information coming from the River Plate country refutes the contention that foot-and-mouth disease has disappeared.

## BIG STEER A RISKY PROPOSITION

BY JAMES E. POOLE

PERIODICAL EXHIBITIONS of the somewhat romantic, but apparently incurable, imbecility of humanity are made at the stock-yards. Despite warning, cattle-feeders laid in heavy fleshy steers last fall with unreasonable assurance that the \$18 market for such cattle at the finished stage would continue. There was no warrant for such assumption; in fact, all the available logic made the expectation unreasonable. Now that, on paper at least, values have declined \$2 per cwt. or more, the usual hullabaloo about an unstable, unreliable market is agitating stock-yard atmosphere. Feeders of this type were protected from their own recklessness and ignorance this season only by scarcity of fleshy, mature cattle. Had a sufficient number been available, they would have been responsible for the same disastrous overplay that occurred in 1926.

Ignoring sign-posts and danger-signals is a national habit into which live-stock operators are peculiarly disposed to fall. The case of the heavy steer has been so forcibly and convincingly put before feeders recently that no excuse for display of bad judgment is possible. Heavy bullocks reached an \$18 to \$19 altitude late last year for the reason that only an occasional load of that type reported at Chicago, and that there were none at any other market on the map. Those feeders who took this supply condition as their cue to invest in big cattle are entitled neither to consolation nor to reward. Nor is their contention that heavy cattle recently selling on the Chicago market at \$14 to \$15 per cwt. show losses of \$3 to \$3.50 per cwt., compared with the 1927 pinnacle, correct, as such cattle under present conditions are merely warmed up, or fed around one hundred days, lacking the dressing capacity and finish of long-feds. The outstanding fact is, however, that few steers weighing over 1,350 pounds are needed by the trade, and that preparing them for the butcher is always a hazardous operation, possessing only the fascination of an uncertain draw. Contention that, because a few big steers occasionally fetch big prices, heavy beef is acquiring popularity with consumers, is absurd.

And another thing: Rarely in trade history has a high fall market for finished cattle been maintained during the

first half of the ensuing year. The January-to-May period invariably develops an urgent call for the cheaper grades of steers and female cattle, especially when values are high, as at present. Why this condition should exist, and repeat, is one of those insoluble problems which every industry presents. Most, if not all, of the money lost on cattle-feeding operations since the war has been with heavy cattle marketed late in the winter. The fall of 1926 was an exception. On the other hand, yearlings, cheap steers with a little more age, heifers, cows, bulls, and bovine trash generally have paid out at this season. Just why consumers demand common beef during the fore part of the year, but go to quality later, may be somewhat of a conundrum. The most plausible explanation is that the late-winter and early-spring fat-cattle supply is largely feed-lot output, that of the rest of the year carrying a big percentage of pasture, or grass, cattle. Whatever the reason may be, the profitable cattle to handle during the winter have been, and are at present, the cheaper, commoner types. There may or may not be consolation in this for the "Better Beef" boosters, but facts are facts.

It has been a profitable winter-feeding season for everyone who invested in low-grade steers, cows, and heifers last fall. Not that the bigger, higher-priced cattle have lost money; merely, feeders have been disappointed in the finality of such transactions. Where they expected \$17 to \$18.50 per cwt., they have realized \$14 to \$16—sometimes less. Most of the time there have been more than enough cattle with weight to go around. When killers did not have access to 1,350- to 1,450-pound steers, they substituted lighter cattle. Always the 850- to 1,100-pound steers have been courted, and usually there was a free course over the scales for steers up to 1,250 pounds. The slogan of the buyer has constantly been, "Show me something cheap;" and cheap cattle under present conditions outsell the best bullock available a year ago.

Despite the fact that big cattle have not lived up to their advertisement, adventurous operators have been slipping them into the feed-lot right along, paying up to \$12.40 on the Chicago market for two-way steers already in decent beef condition. If such operations prove profitable, the feeder will plume himself on his perspicacity, and will be categorized as lucky by the trade. If the outcome is disastrous, the market will get the blame. But some people will always play a risky game. The fascination of an uncertain draw appeals to them; but the squawk they emit when they lose is inconsistent.

The outstanding feature of the fat-cattle market of the past winter is the cordial welcome extended to little cattle of 650 to 1,000 pounds by the whole killing interest. It merely emphasizes the popularity and salability of light, economical beef cuts. Heifers at \$10.50 to \$13.25 per cwt., and steers at \$12 to \$15, have trooped over the market scales with celerity soon after being shown to buyers, while it has been necessary to carry weighty steers overnight, and even over the week-end, because satisfactory bids—or bids at any price—were not available. Southern "yellow-hammer" steers in decent condition, at \$10.50 per cwt., tell the story of popularity of light beef, even when quality is entirely lacking. The man who pinned his faith to nondescript and common feeding cattle last fall has had another inning. Those who invested in good, heavy steers have held the short end of the stick.

## Foot-and-Mouth in Ireland

An outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease among cattle in Ireland, hitherto free from the disease, has caused an order to be issued by the British government suspending importations of live stock from certain Irish ports.

## TEXAS CATTLE-RAISERS MEET IN AMARILLO

CATTLEMEN FROM ALL PARTS OF TEXAS and a large contingent of visitors from neighboring states gathered at Amarillo on March 20-22, 1928, for the fifty-second annual convention of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association. It is estimated that well over 1,500 stockmen were in attendance. Typical Texas spring weather and favorable range prospects added to the good spirits engendered by the changed outlook in the industry.

On the first day, Marvin Jones, representative in Congress from the eighteenth Texas district, in his address of welcome proposed the erection in Washington, D. C., of a monument to the pioneer cowman. The report of the executive committee was read, briefly reviewing the accomplishments of the association during the past year. In his annual address, President R. M. Kleberg stressed the importance of getting back of the association, that it might fulfil its mission in an adequate manner. He spoke of what it had done in the past to further the interests of the cattlemen of Texas, mentioning its activities in connection with the Boston beef boycott, the ban on imports of fresh meat from South America, the Capper-Hope bill for the suppression of direct marketing, and the Box bill which would put Mexican immigration under the quota law.

The second day's proceedings were opened by L. Gough, Amarillo, president of the Texas Wheat Growers' Association, who spoke on the general principle of co-operative marketing. M. K. Gossett, president of the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Houston, told of the methods employed by these banks and what their work had meant to the live-stock industry. C. B. Denman, president of the National Live Stock Producers' Association, reviewed the history of that organization during its six years of existence—a development "from no membership and \$4,000 borrowed money to 250,000 members and an annual business of \$130,000,000." He pleaded for united support of producer-controlled live-stock marketing organizations.

A eulogy of the cattleman and the share of live stock in the total wealth of the state was delivered on the third day by Texas' young governor, Dan Moody. M. W. Holland, Dallas, field editor of *Farm and Ranch*, gave a talk on the possibility of Texas raising its own feedstuffs. Jesse H. Jones, capitalist, and Dr. William S. Jacobs, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church and a breeder of Brahman cattle, both of Houston, invited the association to meet in that city in 1929. Fort Worth and Dallas also made bids for that honor.

All officers were re-elected, as follows: R. M. Kleberg, Corpus Christi, president; T. D. Hobart, Pampa, first vice-president; C. C. Slaughter, Dallas, second vice-president; W. E. Connell, Fort Worth, treasurer; E. B. Spiller, Fort Worth, secretary and general manager; Tad Moses, Fort Worth, assistant secretary; Dayton Moses, Fort Worth, attorney.

These resolutions were passed:

Urging next legislature to appropriate revolving fund of \$25,000, to be expended by Agricultural and Mechanical College Experiment Station in testing efficiency of Texas rations in finishing cattle and producing dairy articles;

Demanding that products of ranch and farm be accorded same protection as manufactures;

Requesting Tariff Commission to make such recommendations as will enable President to advance tariff on beef products;

Indorsing resolution adopted by New Mexico Cattle and Horse Growers' Association for leasing of unappropriated public domain by proper federal agency;

Asking federal government to co-operate with state government in establishment of laboratory for study of loco weed, with view to its complete eradication;

Petitioning Congress to appropriate sufficient funds for reduction of losses from insect pests;

Urging upon Congress and state legislature to vote adequate funds for prosecution of work of controlling predatory animals;

Protesting against passage by Congress of Box bill placing Mexican labor under quota restrictions;

Commending Secretary of Agriculture Jardine and Chief of Bureau of Animal Industry, Dr. J. R. Mohler, for issuing and maintaining order against importation of fresh meats from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists;

Favoring increase in revenues of National Live Stock and Meat Board;

Indorsing work of Live Stock Traffic Association of Fort Worth in securing proper live-stock rates;

Advocating appropriation of \$256,820, asked for by Secretary Jardine, for adjustment of salaries of federal veterinarians;

Recommending affiliation of Cattle Raisers' and Producers' Commission Company at Fort Worth with National Live Stock Producers' Association;

Opposing Capper-Hope bill for restriction of direct marketing.

## KANSAS STOCKMEN IN CONVENTION

**I**N AN "ATMOSPHERE OF PROSPERITY, tempered by a slight trace of caution," as stated in the press reports, the members of the Kansas Live Stock Association met in a three-day annual session at Wichita on March 7 to 9. The report of Secretary J. H. Mercer, presented to the board of directors, pointed out that Kansas stockmen had enjoyed one of the best years in the history of the association. President Arnold Berns emphasized the danger threatening cattlemen of the United States through the possible removal of the ban against importation of beef from South America. Problems confronting the local live-stock industry were dealt with by Dan D. Casement, of Manhattan, and O. O. Wolf, of Ottawa. Homer Hoch, representative in Congress from the fourth district of Kansas and co-author of the Hoch-Smith Resolution, discussed transportation matters.

Most of the second day's program was devoted to the subject of direct marketing. M. W. Borders, of Kansas City, spoke of what he termed the "manifold evils" of the system as now practiced by the packers, and Secretary Mercer suggested that, if Congress fails to enact legislation for the restriction of country buying, a solution of the problem might be reached through an amicable agreement with the packers.

On the last day, Dr. A. W. Miller, the new chief of the Packers and Stock-Yards Administration, addressed the convention on the various phases of the work of the Bureau of Animal Industry. Dr. L. E. Call, director of the experiment station of Kansas State Agricultural College, gave a talk on the technical work of the station. R. C. Pollock, manager of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, described the progress made in government grading and stamping of beef.

These resolutions were adopted unanimously:

Demanding that spirit of Hoch-Smith Resolution be observed by Interstate Commerce Commission, and protesting against threatened increase in freight rates on agricultural products, including live stock;

Requesting repeal of section 15-a of Transportation Act; Asking for tariff on hides, and general increase in import duties on products of agriculture;

Stressing importance of maintaining embargo against importation of meat animals and their products from countries where foot-and-mouth disease prevails;

Urging continued co-operation of federal government in suppressing European corn-borer;

Favoring continuation of work of tuberculosis eradication;

Advocating better pay for veterinarians of Bureau of Animal Industry;

Indorsing Capper-Hope bill for restriction of direct marketing;

Supporting Strong bill for stabilization of value of money and maintenance of commodity prices at uniform level.

W. J. Miller, of Topeka, was elected president by acclamation, and J. W. Greenleaf, of Greensburg, first vice-president. Second, third, and fourth vice-presidents for 1928 are William Ferguson, of Wellington, Dr. C. W. McCampbell, of Manhattan, and Rodney Elward, of Castleton, respectively. J. H. Mercer, of Topeka, was continued as secretary-treasurer.

### FEVERISH QUEST FOR FEEDERS

J. E. P.

**C**LAMOR FOR CATTLE has been insistent right along, at prices around \$2.50 per cwt. higher than a year ago. Feeders have paid \$12 to \$12.50, and even \$12.60, for fleshy steers adapted to a short turn on corn, and stockers have been ready sale at prices ranging from \$9 to \$12 per cwt., according to what they are. Below the \$10 line the buyer gets "nothing much." If statistics concerning the market output are reliable, replacement has been on a larger scale than during the corresponding period of 1927; but such figures are notoriously deceptive, and in this instance do not record an increased movement, as direct shipment from trans-Missouri grass to Corn Belt feed-lots and eastern pastures has been diminutive, whereas a year ago it was heavy. At that time buyers were scouring the entire western country in quest of cattle, and getting results; under present conditions, such expeditions do not justify travel expenditure.

Fewer fleshy feeders have gone out, for several reasons, as packers have, with rare exceptions, been hungry for any kind of a light steer priced below \$12, provided it could hang up a decently covered carcass. This, coupled with high initial cost and a droopy fat-cattle market, plus a rising corn market, has restrained buying ardor. Demand has centered on light cattle weighing 500 to 700 pounds, and these have gone over market scales with such alacrity that an accumulation in dealers' hands has been impossible. The whole region east of Chicago, with its countless millions of acres of grass, has been an avid purchaser of anything wearing a hide, capable of taking care of that crop, now at the appearance stage. Demand for grazing cattle has been emphasized by a rapidly expanding sweet-clover area, this crop being available only for that purpose. Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and states farther east have been big buyers at Chicago, and, owing to cattle scarcity there, have had to go farther west to satisfy their needs. Kentucky, Wisconsin, and Missouri are also in the market. Demand from killing sources for cows and heifers has all but shut the stocker man out of that competition.

Mineral Point, Wisconsin, pasture men had secured but a small proportion of their quota of summer cattle up to April 1, and had paid anywhere from \$11.50 to \$12.50 per cwt. It is probable that they will have an opportunity this season to give their pastures a rest. Similar conditions exist everywhere grass grows.

Feeders are sensing their disadvantageous position in the industry. Replacement is no longer merely a matter of placing an order. The spring offering of native cattle formerly available at Chicago at this season is missing, and not only are numbers lacking, but quality has deteriorated. In this emergency, anything is acceptable, dairy-bred yearlings going back to the country in considerable numbers. Eastern stock-cattle supply sources have practically dried up, with not even a remote prospect of early replacement.

### THE FREIGHT-RATE CASE

**H**EARINGS ON LIVE-STOCK FREIGHT RATES under the Hoch-Smith Resolution (Docket 17,000, Part 9) have been concluded before the Interstate Commerce Commission. Between February 6 and 16 the railroads put in their evidence at Chicago, continuing at Kansas City from February 17 to March 1. The time from March 2 to 10, at the latter place, was given over to testimony by the stockmen. A final hearing, for rebuttal only, was held at Chicago on March 26. Similar proceedings have been under way with respect to other agricultural commodities.

The interests of the cattle- and sheep-growers have been looked after by the officers of the American National Live Stock Association and the National Wool Growers' Association, Secretary Tomlinson and Attorney Cowan appearing for the former. Besides, representatives of many state and local live-stock organizations, as well as individual stockmen, have been heard.

As previously mentioned in THE PRODUCER, the direction in the Hoch-Smith Resolution (passed by Congress on January 30, 1925) for the lowest possible freight rates compatible with adequate transportation service was countered by the railroads with a demand for higher rates, thus shifting the basis of the discussion. This demand was denied by the Interstate Commerce Commission in July, 1926, but it was at the same time stated that insufficient evidence had been introduced to justify a reduction. Further hearings, however, were to be held. It is these that have now been closed.

At Chicago and Kansas City the railroads made their new position clear. Schedules were proposed which averaged from 10 to 25 per cent higher than the present rates—amounting, in some instances in the northwestern states, to as much as 40 per cent higher. According to this proposal, the region between Chicago and the Pacific coast would be divided into five zones, with rates increasing toward the west.

Briefs by both sides are now to be filed with the commission, after which the examiners will prepare their report and recommendations, to be made public in advance of the final decision. This may not be looked for several months yet.

### COLORADO STOCKMEN PROTEST AGAINST TAX RULINGS

**P**ROTESTS AGAINST INCREASES in grazing-land taxes and in the minimum value placed on range cattle for taxation purposes, as ordered by the State Tax Commission of Colorado, were embodied in a resolution adopted at a called meeting of the Colorado Stock Growers' Association, held in Pueblo on March 17.

As to range cattle, the minimum value, by a recent order of the commission, was raised from \$22 to \$35 per head. This valuation the stockmen wanted reduced to \$27.50. Colorado cattle, it was held, are already taxed 60 per cent higher than those in neighboring states. Besides, as pointed out by Dr. B. F. Davis, secretary of the association, while other property within the state has been taxed on only from 43 to 75 per cent of its full cash value, cattle for the past ten years have been assessed 94 per cent. This lack of equalization formed the basis of the objections voiced by the stockmen, who interpreted it as discrimination in favor of property-owners in the city.

On March 27, representatives of the stockmen appeared before the commission, endeavoring to secure an adjustment of this advance. On March 31 the commission yielded, to the extent of fixing \$28 per head as the minimum assessment rate.

### SECRETARY JARDINE AND THE CAPPER BILL

SOME DOUBT HAS EXISTED as to just where Secretary Jardine stood on the Capper-Hope bill. From the side of supporters of this legislation the assertion has often been made that the secretary favored it. No direct quotation to that effect has, however, been presented, as far as we know. The below purports to be part of a statement recently given out containing Mr. Jardine's views on the questions involved, as summarized in the press:

Sale of live stock by direct contract between producers and packers should be regulated "within reason," but not necessarily eliminated. All are agreed that strong public markets must be maintained, but there is no intention to restrict operations to public stock-yards. "It is desired only that packers show their private yards to be a public necessity and convenience. We are concerned chiefly with enterprises centering around the larger markets, where prices for entire regions are developed. If choice stock supplies flow only to private yards, current market quotations necessarily will be based on inferior animals that dominate the public market. These lower grades will not be alone in reducing market prices. There will be an absence of strong competitive bidding—the real life of trade. It is to the farmers' interest—even those who sell direct to the packer—that a constant stream of the country's best stock reaches our open markets." No attack is made on direct buying by packers located at some distance from public stock-yards.

### DIRECT BUYING

ON THE SUBJECT OF DIRECT BUYING of hogs, *Wallaces' Farmer* in a recent editorial has this to say, in defense of its attitude as against certain of its readers who have charged it with being unduly favorable to the packers:

"We believe that direct buying has grown to its present proportions because certain packers can get their hogs more cheaply than any other. The saving to the packers is not so much because the farmers sell more cheaply, but because of savings in freight rates, bruises, fills, and commission and yardage charges. In the case of some, but not all, packers, it seems to be possible to route hogs more directly and with less waste from the producer to the consumer by means of direct buying than by using the central market."

"We don't think direct buying will destroy the commission men or the central markets. But neither do we think that the commission men will be able to stop direct buying. Their present campaign may keep direct buying from increasing for a while, but this influence will soon wear off, if it is true, as some packers claim, that direct buying is the more economical way for them to handle hogs."

"In this whole matter, none of us should allow ourselves to be misled by prejudices. We should all keep an open mind, because it has not been possible as yet for any of us to know the whole truth. One lesson we want to drive home to farmers is that, if direct buying is as economically sound as the packers think, it is absolutely essential that farmers get ready to build up their own local concentration points. In some communities it may be all right for farmers to get together in the signing of an agreement to ship only to commission firms at central markets. Most farmers, however, should consider many points in direct buying which are not brought out at all by the commission men. The problem is not altogether one of maintaining central markets, but is really one of getting live stock from producers to consumers as cheaply as possible, and leaving as high a percentage of the consumers' money in the hands of the farmers as is possible."

### WOOL PRODUCTION IN 1927

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF WOOL shorn and pulled in the United States in 1927 was 328,137,000 pounds, of which 278,037,000 pounds were shorn and 50,100,000 pounds pulled, according to an estimate by the Department of Agriculture.

In 1926 the quantity was 310,576,000 pounds, of which 260,976,000 pounds were shorn and 49,600,000 pounds pulled. The estimated average weight per fleece shorn was 7.74 pounds in 1927 and 7.77 pounds in 1926. Of pulled wool the weight per skin was 3.24 pounds in 1927 and 3.33 pounds in 1926.

### FUTURE BRIGHT FOR AMERICAN WOOL-GROWER

SUMMARIZING HIS IMPRESSIONS of wool-trade conditions gained on a trip around the world, J. F. Walker, consulting specialist of the Division of Co-operative Marketing of the Department of Agriculture, says that there now is "an opportunity for American wool-growers to place their industry on the best financial basis in history." Wool production in New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa has reached the saturation point, we are told, and cannot be further expanded because of limiting climatic and geographic factors.

In spite of the heavy increase in foreign production since the World War, supply has not kept pace with demand. Wool stocks everywhere are extremely low. This situation is favorable for the wool-growers of this country, who should endeavor to breed sheep with the type of wool demanded by the mills, prepare the wools properly for the market, and improve marketing conditions.

### NO INTERSTATE SHIPMENTS OF TICKY CATTLE AFTER MAY 1

INTERSTATE MOVEMENT OF CATTLE from the tick-infested territory of the United States, whether for slaughter or for other purposes, will be unlawful after May 1, 1928. For many years shipment of ticky cattle under quarantine restrictions for immediate slaughter has been permitted by special provision in the act of 1884, but this provision was repealed by the enactment of the Crisp bill of 1926, becoming effective in May of this year.

Under the new regulations, cattle from the quarantined area shipped for immediate slaughter must be dipped and certified as tick-free, in a manner similar to that required in interstate transportation for purposes other than slaughter.

### Live Stock in Mexico

Revised figures have been given out of the results of the live-stock census in Mexico in 1926, differing somewhat from those previously published. A remarkable increase is shown for the two years since 1924:

	1926	1924
Horses .....	1,036,000	391,000
Mules .....	686,000	323,000
Cattle .....	5,585,000	2,188,000
Sheep .....	2,698,000	1,728,000
Goats .....	5,424,000	1,866,000
Swine .....	2,903,000	760,000

### THE CALENDAR

- June 1-2, 1928—Annual Convention of Nebraska Stock Growers' Association, Ogallala, Neb.
- June 5-6, 1928—Annual Convention of Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, Thermopolis, Wyo.
- June 8-9, 1928—Annual Convention of Western South Dakota Stock Growers' Association, Rapid City, S. D.
- July 24-26, 1928—Annual Convention of Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association of Texas, San Angelo, Tex.
- October 1-7, 1928—Annual Dairy Cattle Congress, National Belgian Horse Show, and American Poultry Congress, Waterloo, Iowa.

# THE PRODUCER

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IN THE INTEREST OF THE

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BY THE

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## GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

**S**AGGING CATTLE QUOTATIONS, especially on the better grades, a stationary hog market, and rising lamb prices characterized live-stock trade during the past month. Receipts of hogs continue to be far in excess of those of a year ago, and until this situation changes there is little hope of any material improvement in price conditions. On the other hand, with pork at its present level, consumers in large numbers are turning to that meat in preference to the higher-priced beef, which has been a depressing factor in the cattle yards.

Packers are preparing for another year of diminishing exports, and are beginning to look forward to the time when, in pork as now in beef and mutton, we shall have to be content with feeding our own mouths. The scramble for the bacon trade of the few countries that import this commodity in quantities is ever becoming more acute, with such enormous amounts being shipped from the continent of Europe that prices have dropped to a point where American packers find it difficult to compete.

Adjustment of our whole meat trade to domestic requirements would in itself, perhaps, not be a calamity. Our population, even under immigration restrictions, is increasing so fast as to absorb in the aggregate a rapidly swelling volume of all kinds of meat. Only this is to be remembered that, with a situation established where we would consume our own surplus, and with prices maintained on a plane that would not only keep in the live-stock business those who are now there, but attract the necessary contingent of new blood from year to year, the United States market would become a door at which every-

body throughout the world having meat to sell would soon be knocking. To the clamor thus arising, accompanied by promises of a *quid pro quo*, and fortified by the chorus from our own growing industrial element, shouting for cheaper food, there might be danger of our government some day lending a willing ear. The present pressure on the part of certain foreign governments asking admission for their beef is significant of what we might expect.

A generous fall of rain and snow over large sections of the grain belt has lately improved the crop outlook, which was beginning to cause anxiety, and wheat is reported as making good progress. Acreage abandoned is about the average. Corn and cotton are being planted in the South, where prospects are for larger areas than last year.

Price advances have been scored in several cereals. Corn has reached the highest level for the season. Wheat-buying, too, has expanded. Augmented movements from the farm have helped bring up the carriers' loading returns. Coal business is running behind last year's. A new strike has been called in the bituminous fields of the Middle West.

Slow improvement is noticeable in the employment situation, which, however, is still serious enough. The automobile industry is absorbing a larger amount of labor, and several other lines report increased activity. Besides, many municipalities have determined to push public improvements, in an endeavor to ameliorate conditions. With milder weather, building is speeding up. Steel-mills are busier than at this time last spring. Furniture factories are quiet. Shoe-manufacturing is spotted, as is the lumber trade. Cotton-spinners are operating on a somewhat reduced basis, while the silk industry is active. Petroleum output shows a further curtailment. Wool is firm, and leather unchanged.

The stock market has gone on another of its periodic sprees. Bonds are only moderately active. Money remains steady.

## LET US KEEP OUR HOUSE IN ORDER

**T**HAT MUCH of the responsibility for the distressing frequency of new outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in Great Britain must be laid at the door of importations of Argentine beef seems now to have become the settled conviction of the British authorities. Evidence of the seriousness of the situation is furnished by the increasing number of voices being raised, both in and out of Parliament, for the complete stoppage of these shipments. To such drastic measures it is not likely that the British consumer would submit without a vigorous protest. Two-fifths of England's annual beef

supply is drawn from South America, and to shut off this supply, with the ban in force against imports from the continent of Europe, would have the immediate effect of creating such a scarcity that prices on a favorite article of food would soar beyond the reach of a large proportion of the people.

Rather than resort to this means of last resort, the British government is trying to see what may be accomplished through more rigid inspection at the point of origin. Demands have been made of Argentina, which the government of that country is endeavoring to honor. The policy of denying the existence of foot-and-mouth disease appears to have been abandoned. Seeing her principal industry threatened with ruin by being barred out from her most important market, Argentina has at last awakened to the necessity of candor and prompt action. Will her efforts succeed?

In a letter to the London *Times* of February 21, as quoted in *Live Stock Markets*, Sir William Haldane writes:

The information I am receiving at present from Argentina makes it evident that now foot-and-mouth disease is prevalent all over that country, unless possibly in a few remote districts, and that it has passed beyond the power of the Argentine authorities to save the herds of that country from this devastating disease. Without going into detail, the position as described is such that no effective quarantine of the cattle to be slaughtered for export to this country is possible now against this insidious disease. All that can be done is to endeavor one way or another to reduce somewhat the amount of infection that Argentine chilled beef will necessarily carry here while its importation continues.

The Argentine authorities appear no longer to question that chilled carcasses of infected cattle retain the disease in virulent form for several weeks, and thus are an almost certain source from which infection can be spread in countries where their beef is consumed. But naturally they are desirous to avoid any measure so drastic as to stop their large export trade.

This lends an edge, if any were needed, to the urgent demand of American cattle-growers that our own government do not give heed to the opportunities of eastern manufacturers and diplomatic representatives of South America for the lifting of the quarantine which we are now maintaining. With the experience of England before us, can anyone doubt that unhindered entrance of South American beef would mean the almost certain infection of our herds, the country crisscrossed with ditches for the burial of some of our best live stock, millions upon millions of dollars shoveled in after our steers and cows, and no end to the contamination, as the fount of pollution would be forever flowing? Such a risk we cannot afford to run.

It is imperative that Secretary Jardine yield not one inch to the pressure exerted upon him for the removal of the South American beef embargo.

## PACKERS MUST CONTINUE TO CONSENT

THE SUPREME COURT of the United States on March 19, 1928, held valid the famous "Packers' Consent Decree," to which the packers have ceased to consent. When a voluntary agreement thus becomes vested with the force of law by the highest court in the land, after one of the parties to the agreement has repented of his act, what is to be done about it?

After the close of the war, it will be remembered, Attorney-General Palmer sought indictments against the big packers for attempting to monopolize a large proportion of the food supply of the nation, in violation of the federal anti-trust laws. Apprehensive as to the result of court action, and desirous "to avoid every appearance of placing themselves in a position of antagonism to the government," the packers offered to have a decree entered which, while not to be considered an admission of guilt, would divest them of the instrumentalities complained of. The offer was accepted, and the decree was entered on the records of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia on February 27, 1920. After which the criminal proceedings were dropped.

Among other things, the decree enjoined the "big five" packers (Armour, Swift, Morris, Wilson, and Cudahy) from holding, without the consent of the court, any interest in public stock-yards or cold-storage plants; from engaging in the manufacture or distribution of all lines of food products unrelated to the meat-packing industry; and from selling meat at retail.

Soon, however, the packers became dissatisfied with their bargain and started proceedings to have it annulled. For one thing, they asserted that they had found it impossible to live up to the terms of the agreement, in that they had not been able to dispose of their stock-yard holdings. The government repeatedly granted extensions of time, but opposed cancellation of the decree in its entirety. Thereupon the packers brought suit to have it set aside. It is this case which has now, after many moves on the judicial checker-board, finally been decided against them.

What the effect of this decision will be it is too early to predict. If no buyer can be found for the stock-yard properties, presumably the packers cannot be compelled to give them away. Grape-juice and peanuts, of course, they will have to continue to refrain from vending. As for retail meat markets, THE PRODUCER has always been under the impression that a desire to enter this business on a large scale had comparatively little to do with the move of the packers to have the decree voided.

### THE CAPPER BILL

**T**HAT SENTIMENT in favor of restricting the free flow of live stock from producer to consumer through any channel agreeable to both buyer and seller is not quite so unanimous among stockmen's organizations as certain papers would have us believe is evidenced by the list of those who testified in opposition to the Capper bill at the hearings before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry last month. Besides Messrs. Brite, Bixby, and Lasater, appearing for the American National Live Stock Association—the organization which has been pictured as standing practically alone in its perversity—other producer associations, to the number of about thirty, had sent representatives who spoke strongly against the measure. Either a lot of good people are singularly blind to their own best interests, or the arguments advanced by the proponents of this legislation are not quite so persuasive as they seem to think.

On the part of co-operative marketing associations, led by the National Live Stock Producers, with their 250,000 members, the point was stressed that the proposed bill abolished the exemptions granted these organizations under the Capper-Volstead Act. To meet this objection, amendments were introduced by Senator Capper, in the form of a new bill, excluding co-operatives from the purview of the measure. This, however, did not cause the co-operatives to withdraw their opposition, as it was still felt that the bill's definition of dealers or stock-yard owners might well be applied to them, especially if the concentration points which they are planning were established. To consolidate their position on the market, in the face of the continued antagonism from old-line agencies, it was held to be essential for co-operatives not to yield any of the ground thus far gained.

For some reason or other, the clause giving the Secretary of Agriculture the right to inspect the accounts of market agencies at any time was omitted from the redrafted bill. In our estimation, this does not add to its attractiveness. Why should not the secretary have this right? No interference or snooping privilege is contemplated. It may be taken for granted that the right would never be exercised wantonly or vindictively, or for the mere pleasure of prying into private business, but only where a legitimate purpose was to be served, such as ascertaining certain facts indispensable to a proper decision in a case arising under the general regulatory powers vested in the government by the Packers and Stock-Yards Act.

What the object is of denying the secretary this free access it is rather difficult to see. Why should publicity be feared where there is nothing to conceal?

Do not the market agencies realize the excellent impression it would make if they showed their willingness to aid in bringing out the truth? If instead they do what they can to hinder, there will remain plenty of critics who will persist in suspecting that everything is not as it ought to be.

Hints have lately been forthcoming that the direct-selling problem—if there is such a problem—might find a satisfactory solution through an amicable arrangement with the packers. This may be only the expression of a fear that nothing much can be accomplished by involving the machinery of federal law. If the packers could be induced voluntarily to abandon or limit certain features of direct buying, any possibility of the dire consequences painted in such glaring colors by the spokesmen of the live-stock exchanges would be obviated in a ludicrously simple manner. That this would be in the nature of an anti-climax presumably would not matter, as long as the desired end was attained. Similarly, let the packers and commission men say to the Secretary of Agriculture: "We doubt your ability to compel us to throw open our accounts to your examiners, but we have nothing to hide. Go to it!"

### UNCLEAN WEAPONS

**A**PARTICULARLY OFFENSIVE EXAMPLE of unfair journalism is presented by one of the exchange papers. In its advocacy of the amendment to the Packers and Stock-Yards Act introduced in Congress by Senator Capper, the aim of which is to force all shipments of live stock through the central markets, this paper some time ago delivered a vicious broadside at Senator Kendrick, who had incurred its displeasure by opposing the bill. The writer of the article, which was crammed with gratuitous insinuations and absurd misstatements, took advantage of the occasion to pay his respects to the American National Live Stock Association, which has long been a thorn in the flesh of the old-line commission firms, accusing it of being moribund and only a shadow of its former glorious self. The whole was copied, with approval and embellishments, by other market papers.

In the March PRODUCER Mr. C. M. O'Donel characterizes this effusion in fitting terms. Senator Kendrick needs no defense. His record is an open book. What his former associates think of him is shown in a resolution adopted at the El Paso convention. As for the American National, if it were quite as impotent as it is pictured, why all this froth?

Consistent with its policy of fighting opponents by means of mud-slinging, the same paper, in a later editorial, returns to the assault in true style. Re-

ferring to the men who testified against the Capper bill before the Senate committee, it writes:

Such witnesses in the main were big cattlemen who sell their cattle direct to packers and no doubt are favored in consideration of lending aid to the packers in legislative hearings.

The individuals at whom this pretty piece of innuendo is chiefly directed we need not name. They are inured to that sort of gas attack, and will ignore it. But how about the representatives of the other thirty—more or less—organizations who had come to Washington to protest against the Capper bill, and who are included in this blanket volley? Are they all in the pay of the packers, selling their testimony for "favors"?

That the commission men should be fighting tooth and nail to keep the source of their income intact is natural. We should have liked it better if they had come out in the open and frankly avowed what we cannot help thinking is one of their most impelling motives in championing the Capper measure, instead of sailing under the smoke-screen of concern for the misguided producer. But when they cannot carry on their warfare without resorting to such unclean methods, their cause must, indeed, be a weak one.

### William Kent

WILLIAM KENT died at his home in Kentfield, near San Rafael, California, on March 14. Born in Chicago sixty-four years ago, the son of the founder of the first packing plant in that city, from his youth he had an intimate knowledge and love of live stock and everything pertaining to the out-of-doors. During his lifetime he became the leading influence in many live-stock and farming enterprises, extending over several states. One of these was the Kent & Burke Company, of Omaha, Nebraska, in which he was associated with the late Edward L. Burke, vice-president of the American National Live Stock Association. As a member of Congress he was instrumental in the passage of the first bill regulating the packers and stock-yards, as well as the 640-acre stock-raising homestead act.

Mr. Kent was a man of diversified interests, and many philanthropies have benefited from his vast wealth, distributed with a generous hand.

### Subsidy for New Zealand Pork

The prime minister of New Zealand has announced that the government is prepared to subsidize the exportation of pork during the next three years.

"I am thankful that your paper has become known to me. It is a real stock journal."—N. H. SITTON, Claresholm, Alberta, Canada.

### LIVE-STOCK MARKET QUOTATIONS

Monday, April 2, 1928

#### CATTLE AND CALVES

STEERS:	KANSAS CITY	OMAHA	DENVER
Good to Choice (1,500 lbs. up).....	\$12.85-14.50	\$13.25-14.50	.....
Choice (1,300 to 1,500 lbs.).....	13.50-14.50	13.75-14.50	.....
Good .....	12.65-13.50	13.00-13.75	.....
Choice (1,100 to 1,300 lbs.).....	13.15-14.25	13.50-14.25	.....
Good .....	12.00-13.50	12.75-13.50	\$11.10-13.35
Choice (950 to 1,100 lbs.).....	13.00-14.25	13.25-14.25	.....
Good .....	12.00-13.15	12.50-13.25	10.85-13.15
Medium (800 lbs. up).....	10.25-12.65	10.25-13.00	9.50-11.10
Common .....	7.75-10.25	8.25-10.25	7.70- 9.50

#### YEARLING STEERS:

Choice (750 to 950 lbs.).....	13.00-14.00	13.00-14.00	.....
Good .....	11.75-13.00	11.75-13.00	.....

#### HEIFERS:

Choice (850 lbs. down).....	11.75-12.85	12.00-13.00	.....
Good .....	10.50-12.00	11.25-12.00	10.50-11.70
Common to Medium.....	7.25-10.50	7.75-11.25	7.25-10.60
Choice (850 lbs. up).....	10.75-12.50	11.00-12.50	.....
Good .....	9.75-11.50	10.00-11.75	10.00-11.40
Medium .....	7.75-10.00	8.00-10.25	8.35-10.35

#### COWS:

Choice .....	10.00-11.00	10.00-11.00	9.40-10.35
Good .....	8.25-10.00	8.75-11.00	8.35- 9.40
Common to Medium.....	6.50- 8.25	6.75- 8.75	6.25- 8.35
Low Cutters and Cutters.....	4.50- 6.50	5.25- 6.75	4.25- 6.25

#### BULLS:

Good to Choice.....	7.75- 8.75	8.00- 9.00	7.35- 8.35
Cutters to Medium.....	5.75- 7.75	6.25- 8.00	5.90- 7.35

#### CALVES:

Medium to Choice.....	8.00-12.00	9.00-11.00	9.50-12.25
Culls to Common.....	6.00- 8.00	6.50- 9.00	6.25- 9.50
Culls to Common.....	6.00- 7.00	6.50- 9.00	7.00-12.00

#### FEEDERS AND STOCKERS

STEERS:			
Good to Choice (800 lbs. up).....	10.50-12.25	11.00-12.50	10.90-12.75
Common to Medium.....	8.00-10.50	8.50-11.00	8.25-10.90
Good to Choice (800 lbs. down).....	10.50-13.00	11.00-12.75	10.65-12.65
Common to Medium.....	8.00-10.75	8.25-11.00	7.90-10.65
HEIFERS:			
Good to Choice.....	8.50-10.50	8.25-10.60	8.50- 9.50
Common to Medium.....	7.00- 8.50	6.50- 8.25	7.10- 8.50
COWS:			
Good to Choice.....	7.00- 8.75	6.25- 7.50	6.90- 8.00
Common to Medium.....	5.75- 7.00	5.50- 6.25	5.90- 6.90
CALVES:			
Good to Choice.....	10.75-13.00	10.50-12.50	10.50-12.50
Medium .....	8.00-10.75	8.00-10.50	8.75-10.50

#### HOGS

Heavy Weights, Medium to Choice.....	\$ 7.45- 8.10	\$ 7.50- 8.05	\$ 7.40- 7.90
Medium Weights, Medium to Choice.....	7.75- 8.30	7.85- 8.15	7.50- 8.15
Light Weights, Medium to Choice.....	7.90- 8.30	7.60- 8.15	7.40- 8.15
Light Lights, Medium to Choice.....	7.50- 8.20	7.00- 8.00	7.25- 7.90
Packing Sows.....	6.15- 7.15	6.60- 7.25	6.40- 6.75
Slaughter Pigs, Medium to Choice.....	6.75- 7.50	.....	.....
Feeder and Stocker Pigs, Med. to Ch. ....	6.00- 6.25	6.00- 7.00	.....

#### LAMBS: SHEEP AND LAMBS

Good to Choice (84 lbs. down).....	\$15.75-16.75	\$15.75-16.65	\$15.10-16.25
Medium (92 lbs. down).....	14.75-15.75	14.75-15.75	14.00-15.10
Medium to Choice (92 to 100 lbs.)....	.....	14.75-16.50	14.00-16.10
Culls and Common (all weights).....	11.00-14.75	13.25-14.75	12.75-14.00

#### YEARLING WETHERS:

Medium to Choice (110 lbs. down)....	11.25-14.50	11.00-13.75	.....
EWES:			

Medium to Choice (120 lbs. down)....	7.25- 9.75	7.75-10.00	.....
Medium to Choice (120 to 150 lbs.)..	7.00- 9.50	7.50- 9.75	.....
Culls and Common (all weights).....	3.25- 7.25	3.00- 7.75	.....

#### FEEDING LAMBS:

Good to Choice.....	.....	14.75-16.00	.....
Medium .....	.....	13.50-14.75	.....

# THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

## MR. POOLE AND THE GOVERNMENT STATISTICIANS

MANICKE, MONT., March 6, 1928.

**TO THE PRODUCER:**

I find in the January PRODUCER one of James E. Poole's periodic strictures on the statisticians of the Department of Agriculture, in the following words:

"Of course, the resourceful and ingenious statistical mind would be equal to such an emergency, even to the extent of making guesstimates appear rigidly authentic by carrying decimals out to two places; but disguising obviously doctored figure 'dope,' even when backed by the wisdom of young men fresh from the cloisters of state colleges," etc.

I have on my desk a copy of a pamphlet entitled "Should Government Crop Reports Be Abolished?" published by the Department of Agriculture, Labor, and Industry of the State of Montana, in which I find figures taken from the public records. These figures show that the average error in the Montana estimates of the wheat crop for the years 1924, 1925, and 1926 was 2.95 per cent for October and 0.24 per cent for December. This is an illustration of the accuracy of government reports in general. This pamphlet further states that most people

"who criticize preliminary estimates mean condition forecasts, and they do not seem to know what a condition forecast is. . . . A condition forecast is not a forecast of what is claimed will result from a given condition, but a statement of what has resulted from the same condition figures during past years."

I like to read Mr. Poole's articles. When I want information concerning the live-stock market and outlook, I turn to them seriously and studiously; for I believe they are as accurate as any such survey could be. He usually places very much more emphasis on past facts than he does on prophecies; and what few prophecies he does make he is very careful to state as a probable trend of observed conditions. His wide experience and alert mind make his observations extremely valuable to one like myself, who is not skilled in interpreting market conditions, and who is very limited in the data which he has at hand from which to make his own estimates of the future. Mr. Poole's ability and trustworthiness in these matters make his caustic censure of the government statisticians all the more unfair, and detrimental to scientific progress in the compiling and interpreting of statistics by these trained men of the Department of Agriculture.

Furthermore, I do not believe Mr. Poole means what he says and implies about these government reports. He makes use of government reports on occasion, and interprets them in his inimitable way for his readers. If he really is in earnest in such remarks, one could find numerous instances where he himself makes statements concerning the future with not even so much apparent as figures furnished by crop

reporters upon which to base them. For example, note the following:

"One reason why a healthy cattle market is to be expected all through 1928 is that a majority of those interested are either skeptical or openly confident that something adverse will happen." (PRODUCER, January, 1928.)

Or this from THE PRODUCER, December, 1927:

"Doubtless a large percentage of the light cattle that changed hands during the October-to-November period will not figure in the beef supply of the first half of 1928."

However, I do not set such statements concerning the future down to the discredit of Mr. Poole. I take them—the first ironically, the second as a result of his careful, general study of the major and significant indications in the industry—as his opinion, based upon his wide knowledge and experience in the trade, of the indicated trend toward which everything seems to point, rather than as definite statements of fact in the future tense. One should go to the government reports in the same sympathetic attitude, taking them only for what they assume to be. Mr. Poole could help greatly, if he would, in showing producers how to make use of government reports. It seems he has allowed his facile and facetious pen to run away with him in the pleasure he finds in entertaining those persons who are constitutionally "agin the government."

GEORGE P. KOEBEL.

## IN DEFENSE OF COLONEL GREELEY

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., March 16, 1928.

**TO THE PRODUCER:**

In your editorial entitled "Colonel Greeley" in the March number of THE PRODUCER you refer to "the insistence of the Chief Forester that the fees were too low." Why not be honest and give the devil his due? As you know, Congress tried to place the grazing fees at \$3, or three times the amount of the fees then in force. The Forest Service did all in its power to show that this was not justice, and, to meet the situation and prevent an arbitrary increase by Congress, then or later, the Chief Forester agreed to obtain data on the grazing-fee question. The increase in fees is not at "the insistence of the Chief Forester;" it is Congress—and Congress is the people.

We all have our likes and dislikes, but even then we can tell the whole truth. Don't throw mud!

JAMES K. ALLISON.

[THE PRODUCER has no desire to "throw mud"—a pastime in which it has never indulged. It has had a large amount of sympathy with Colonel Greeley, the unenviableness of whose position it has fully realized, and whose energetic handling of an extremely knotty problem it has often freely admired, whether it agreed with his solution or not. If Mr. Allison will read the editorial again, he will find ample evidence of

this sympathy; and he may also discover that whatever strictures the article contained were worded so as to make them an attempted expression of opinions held by a majority of forest-users.

In line with this attitude, we may point to the belief, quite commonly held, that, whatever the sentiment of Congress may have been, had Colonel Greeley devoted his unquestioned ability and authority to convincing our lawmakers that the fees should be lowered instead of raised, or should be left as they were, he would have had a good chance of carrying the day.—[EDITOR.]

## "BOB" WAS RIGHT AND THE BANKER WRONG

KIT CARSON, COLO., March 24, 1928.

TO THE PRODUCER:

I was in the lobby of the Albany Hotel in Denver during stock-show week in 1919 and overheard a conversation between "Bob" Johnston, the old-time commission man on the Denver yards, and a banker from the western slope. "Bob" claimed that the cowmen were not making any money, that the best of them were barely breaking even, and that many of them were running behind. The banker, however, contended that, with the high prices which cattle were then bringing, the cowmen could not help making all kinds of money. When "Bob" called attention to the greatly increased cost of production, the banker would not listen at all. In those days there were thousands of people all over the country just like this banker—they could see only one side of the question.

As a matter of fact, at the very highest time average cattle prices were only 98 per cent above the pre-war period, while taxes went up 400 to 500 per cent, labor 150 to 200 per cent, and transportation and all kinds of manufactured supplies 150 to 300 per cent. Later developments proved that "Bob" was right and the banker wrong.

When it comes to agricultural conditions, bankers as a class, and especially those in the larger cities, are about the most short-sighted people that I know of. Through their actions they have caused their customers, and incidentally themselves, losses running into the millions of dollars. One very bad habit that city bankers have is that they think they know more about the operation of a ranch than the man who lives there and has been engaged in the business all his life. Frequently those city-street ranchers insist on their customers doing things that are wrong. But the most serious wrong is their general financial policy.

At times like the present, as long as cattle prices are climbing, they are eager to lend money on anything that walks on four legs. By this course they help boost prices above normal, and in particular encourage the "in-and-outer" element. In this way the country becomes overloaded with cattle, and debts reach a level far beyond normal. But just as soon as prices begin to sag, the bankers call in their loans, forcing the stuff on the market in such numbers that the markets cannot handle it, with the result that prices drop to a ruinous level. And the lower prices go, the more the markets are flooded.

If those financiers would use better judgment, would set the brakes against the "in-and-outer," and would finance only the men who are regularly and permanently in the business, and who have the facilities and equipment to handle the stuff properly, in such numbers as they can take care of, the country would not get overstocked so quickly and prices would hold up longer. Then, when the country does get stocked up and prices begin to drop, the bankers should carry their customers along and give them a chance to work their stock off in an orderly manner. In that way prices would never get so extremely low, and there would be no such serious losses.

Another very short-sighted habit of bankers is to lend a man money on a herd of cattle or sheep, not only taking a mortgage on the herd, but tying up everything else he has, and then, when he needs some money to buy feed, turn him down and tell him to get it somewhere else, or get along the best he can without it. As a result, thousands of animals have gone to the bone-yard, and millions upon millions of dollars have been lost.

C. J. OSWALD.

## IN PRAISE OF MEXICAN LABOR

BRACKETTVILLE, TEX., March 26, 1928.

TO THE PRODUCER:

The March issue of THE PRODUCER arrived, and, as usual, I turned to "The Stockmen's Exchange" columns first; for it is there that one gets the first-hand opinion of practical live-stock men—at least cattle- and sheepmen.

An article written from Limestone, Montana, entitled "Mexican Immigration," expressed disapproval of the resolution passed at the recent convention of the American National Live Stock Association with reference to Mexican immigration. The letter ended with a rather strong criticism as to the desirability of that class of immigration. I take opposite views on many points to those set forth in that letter.

We do owe nationals from Mexico and Canada more than we do any foreigners from across the seas. Let it not be forgotten that in "the good old days" (may they never return!), when wars of conquest were somewhat the custom, we took land away from our neighbors without paying for it. Mexico and Canada are still our neighbors, and now are willing to be our friends. We should treat our neighbors with more consideration than foreigners, simply because they are our neighbors. Any other course is unpleasant and unprofitable.

The three governments of the North American continent have a community of interest in many lines, one present problem of vital importance to our live-stock industry and to the people at large being the problem of keeping out foot-and-mouth disease, as suggested by Colonel Pryor's live-stock treaty. One cannot antagonize a neighbor on one issue and get co-operation on another.

Mexican labor, as a matter of fact, does not compete with American labor; for Mexican labor is willing to accept dull, constant, tedious work, which American labor will not do, such as sugar-beet farming, care of sheep, picking of cotton, etc. Someone has to do what, to our way of thinking, are the more tedious kinds of work. The consuming East will get products grown under lower and more efficient labor conditions, and the agricultural West will benefit also. A good available labor supply is a wonderful thing in the planting or harvesting of any crop. Lack of it means great loss to the grower, which loss ultimately must be paid by the consumer. Years ago in Wyoming I learned that it was better to cut down ranch operations, rather than later to be under the necessity of depending upon "hobo" white labor.

To a marked degree, the Northwest has the disadvantage at the present time of furnishing only a few months' work out of the year. The Northwest, as well as other agricultural sections, must ultimately develop a system which will offer work for more months in the year. Developing the sugar-beet industry—really an infant industry in many sections—is a step in the right direction. You cannot develop a country on the plan of excluding all but the white-collared type, nor can Industrial Workers of the World be used in agricultural enterprises. Oil-field men, coal-miners, etc., as we know them,

cannot be depended upon in agriculture. A good farmer has the farming desire born in him. He may do other work, when there is no agricultural work to be done, but he is still thinking about farming when working in other lines.

I have learned something about Mexican laboring people during the past fifteen years, speak their lingo, and find them to be a peaceful, hard-working class of people. With a good boss over them, they are a dependable, efficient class of labor, although they do require a boss who will treat them half-way as gentlemen, which can be done, as, unlike foreign laborers, they do not mistake politeness for weakness.

It is true, as with all nationalities, barring certain artificial conditions, that the more worthless element goes farthest from the native land. The better class of Mexicans stay closer to home, if fairly regular employment can be had, not continually changing their home, seeking the high dollar, but rather more congenial, steady working conditions. I have men working ten, twelve, or more hours a day at times, when necessity demands, in cattle work, and they willingly do it, earning less money than the railroad company pays, and working longer hours, largely because they prefer agricultural work. They are great people for wanting to operate a little plot of ground or farm, even if it is a burying-ground for their hard-earned wages.

The Montana man possibly has gathered his ideas as to their undesirability from the drifting class of labor which is attracted by the few months' work offered them in the Northwest. Even statistics per one thousand of population (if his statement was based on figures) have to be analyzed carefully before it can be assumed they mean anything.

Even trained professional writers unintentionally make statements that are distant from the facts in the case; so we cattlemen and sheepmen should expect to make more errors than the average. I probably have made several unintentional errors in the above letter. However, it is well worth while for us to get other people's opinions and viewpoints, and I hope to see "The Stockmen's Exchange" letters increase in number.

J. F. BEIDLER.

## DO FEMALE ANTELOPES HAVE HORNS?

MR. BARNES REPLIES TO MR. McCROREY

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 20, 1928.

### To THE PRODUCER:

The March PRODUCER contains a communication from J. T. McCrorey, in which the statement is made, with reference to my article on antelopes in the January issue, that "I have never yet known a doe with horns." This, of course, does not prove anything, except the fact that Mr. McCrorey has missed something which is so well established as to admit of no argument.

But take heart, old-timer! No less a person than Audubon—the greatest naturalist we have ever known—was himself fooled on the antelope's horns. When Audubon was in the Far West, in 1820, local hunters told him that the antelopes shed their horns every year. He duly recorded this statement, with the remark that such a thing was impossible in an animal with a horn structure similar to that of a cow—i. e., a hard, spongy substructure, fastened tight to the head, over which grew a hard, bony covering. Such animals, he believed, could not shed their horns. In 1828, another naturalist, Canfield by name, called attention to this fact, which he said was unique, in that it apparently violated all zoological laws.

Professor Spencer Baird, of the Smithsonian Institution,

was the first authority to publish this fact in 1850; but it was not until 1855 that the Zoological Society of London, after careful investigations with antelopes in confinement, found Canfield's and Baird's statements true. This finding was published in the proceedings of the Zoological Society in February, 1856.

If Mr. McCrorey will read Caton's "Antelope of North America," or the "Prong-Horned Antelope," Bulletin No. 1346 of the Department of Agriculture, or E. W. Nelson's wonderful work, "The Larger North American Mammals," he will find out a lot of things about the antelope of which he now seems to know very little. Mr. Nelson—our greatest American authority—says: "Both sexes have horns—those of the does being smaller and slenderer. One of the extraordinary peculiarities of this antelope is its habit of shedding its horns every year." Like Mr. McCrorey, Mr. Nelson has "seen antelopes by the thousand, from Texas to Montana," his first experiences dating back to 1882 in Arizona and New Mexico. He knows them at first hand. Every work in which the antelope is mentioned speaks of these two remarkable points—i. e., horn-shedding and horns on both sexes.

As for Mr. McCrorey's statement to the effect that "I have never ridden a horse that was swift enough to catch an antelope," I can only feel sorry for him and the plugs he rode. Down on the Arizona ranges we used to ride regular horses that "could catch anything that wore hair and ran on four legs." But, if he still doubts, here is one out of a number of authorities. Under date of August 14, 1805, Lewis and Clark, the explorers, in their diaries mention that the Shoshone Indians—probably in eastern Wyoming—staged an antelope hunt, "in which they ran down many antelope on their ponies." I will agree that it took a good horse to turn the trick on a straight-away run, but, Mr. McCrorey to the contrary, it has been done over and over again by cowboys and others who rode real horses—myself among the number.

WILL C. BARNES.

## WHY, CERTAINLY DOES HAVE HORNS!

ATWOOD, COLO., March 17, 1928.

### To THE PRODUCER:

I have just read the communication from J. T. McCrorey, of Terry, Montana, in the March PRODUCER. Mr. McCrorey says he "had to laugh" at Will C. Barnes's statement that doe antelopes have horns. He may add me to the list of sources of his amusement. I have seen many antelopes, and the does have all had horns.

I have had horses in my string that could outrun antelopes in a short distance. I have myself roped a full-grown antelope and a yearling.

C. L. ROBERTSON.

## MR. BELDEN OFFERS PICTORIAL EVIDENCE

PITCHFORK, WYO., March 20, 1928.

### To THE PRODUCER:

Referring to the letter published in your March issue from J. T. McCrorey and headed, "How About Those Horns?" I am afraid that Mr. McCrorey does not "know his horns;" for he is very much in the wrong when he sees fit to criticize Mr. Barnes's article on the antelope, especially on this point. I am inclosing herewith a group of antelope heads that I photographed a short time ago. This is probably the largest number of antelope heads ever assembled in one group. In the center are four doe heads, and three out of the four have

STATE OF WYOMING  
APR 14 '28



#### TAKING THEIR LAST LOOK AT THE GREAT OPEN SPACES

Probably the largest number of antelope heads ever assembled in one group. They have just been mounted at Cody, Wyoming, by Will Richard, well-known artist-taxidermist, for hunters throughout the country who secured their trophies during the first open season last fall.

horns. Of course, the doe horns are not pronged as the buck horns, but are merely spikes that gain a maximum length of a few inches. However, they are horns, and I should like to offer this photograph as evidence in support of Mr. Barnes's statement.

Mr. McCrorey is wise in not disputing Mr. Barnes's statement about the shedding of antelope horns; for it is definitely known that antelopes shed their horns annually. The article explains very carefully why it is that antelopes are never seen without horns; for "the antelope merely sheds the outside cover of the horn, and a new one at once begins to grow over the core." There has been a great deal of dispute over this point among naturalists, or rather "Pullman-car naturalists" who have never observed antelopes except for short periods. For the past twelve years I have ridden the antelope ranges and have collected several dozen shed antelope horns. About two months ago I picked up a shed antelope horn stuck in a snow-drift. These shed horns, however, are not found in large numbers, for the reason that as soon as they fall off they immediately become an article of food for innumerable coyotes, rats, gophers, and other lesser animals. Furthermore, natural disintegration is very rapid, and it is probable that the horn disappears in at most two or three years.

Mr. Barnes's article was most interesting, and from my own observation was technically accurate in every detail.

CHARLES J. BELDEN.

#### SOME OF THEM DO

OGDEN, UTAH, March 23, 1928.

TO THE PRODUCER:

My attention has been called to the letter from J. T. McCrorey in the March PRODUCER regarding the antelope. The following is quoted from a bulletin by the Roosevelt field naturalist, M. P. Skinner, who made an exhaustive scientific study of antelopes:

"In female pronghorns the horns are sometimes absent or abortive, occasionally quite large, but usually range from one to three inches long and are not branched. The horns of the adult female are invariably much smaller than those of the buck."

Although, even by the use of glasses, I have never observed the horns on does on the range—due, no doubt, to their small size and closeness to the ears—I have seen them on museum specimens.

Mr. Skinner writes much in detail about the horn-shedding, but the following is enough to establish that such occurs:

"In early November the horn-sheath becomes loosened at the base, although still held in position by long hairs imbedded in its substance and still rooted in the epidermis, and is slowly pushed off by the new horn-sheath and the stiff, bristle-like hairs forming beneath. The pushing-off process is very gradual, and almost invariably one sheath falls before the other. Only once have I ever found a pair of sheaths together, and that was in a 'bed' where the antelope had lain for some time. . . . In fact, in several instances I have seen the horns thrown off by a sudden jar, such as a sudden frightened jump on the breaking of a snow-crust under the animal."

This last summer I picked up several of the shed horns, apparently where they had been knocked off as the animals passed through a fence. The fact that the horn-cores are not shed, and that the new horn is partially formed under the old, means that the bucks always have some horns, and, therefore, by the casual observer are presumed not to shed them.

S. B. LOCKE,  
*District Forest Inspector.*

#### AGREES WITH MR. BARNES

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., March 27, 1928.

#### TO THE PRODUCER:

Reference is had to J. T. McCrorey's article, "How About Those Horns?" on page 18 of the March issue of THE PRODUCER, commenting on Will C. Barnes's story about the antelope. I am writing this in the hope that it will be used in correcting the misinformation conveyed to the readers of THE PRODUCER by Mr. McCrorey's statements. At the outset, let me explain that we undoubtedly are talking about the same species of game animal, since U. S. Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 1346, entitled "Status of the Pronghorned Antelope, 1922-1924," written in 1925, by E. W. Nelson, who was then chief of the Biological Survey, and who is a recognized authority on the subject, begins with the following statement: "The pronghorn, or American antelope (*Antilocapra americana*), is the most beautiful and graceful of America's big-game animals." This same bulletin contains the following statements relative to the antelope's horns:

"The pronghorn is the only antelope in the world with branched or pronged horns, and has the unique characteristic among all hollow-horned ruminants of shedding the outer covering of the horns annually. This takes place soon after the rut in November and December in the Yellowstone National Park in northern Wyoming, and elsewhere in the range of the species this time probably varies somewhat with latitude.

"When the time for shedding arrives, the horny sheath gradually loosens and becomes detached from the skin around the base and, following this, from the bony core within. Later the horn falls off, leaving the bony core covered with a blackish skin, more or less overgrown with long, coarse hairs, which afterward are gradually lost. A new horny nucleus develops on the tip of the bony core, the horny growth then extending slowly downward until it reaches the base. Gradually thickening and hardening, the horny material grows at the tip until the new horn attains its full development. The horns continue to grow as the animal increases in age, until the full size is reached.

"Both sexes have horns, those on the does being smaller and slenderer than on the bucks."

While it is known that the antelope is the fleetest of animals inhabiting the North American plains, there are, of course, many authentic records of this animal having been roped by cowboys. Possibly our southwestern cowboys and their ponies are faster than those in Montana!

D. A. SHOEMAKER.

#### IS PLEASED WITH MR. OLIVER'S ARTICLE

MARFA, TEX., March 25, 1928.

#### TO THE PRODUCER:

I have just finished reading the article on page 8 in the March number of THE PRODUCER, by Kenneth D. Oliver, on "Easy Money and Its Dangers." I consider this article the best that I have ever read, and more to the point. Mr. Oliver sets out in a nice, straightforward way the absolute facts pertaining to cattle loans, and handles both sides of the question in a masterly way. I think that a copy of his article should be on the desk of every bank manager and every stock-loan inspector.

We have just sold our entire calf crop for November delivery, at \$40 per head. Range conditions are very satisfactory in this part of Texas. The young calves are fat, and everything points to a good season.

THOMAS C. CROSSON.

#### CENTRAL CALIFORNIA IS DRY

OILFIELD, CAL., March 12, 1928.

#### TO THE PRODUCER:

Feed and grass conditions in the western half of the San Joaquin Valley are very bad. Parts of Merced County and all of Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Kern Counties are dry. While along the coast and in the southern sections of the state conditions are somewhat better, yet they still are below normal. For the last two weeks we have had very favorable weather for rain, but no rain has come. Between October 26 and March 10 the total rainfall was only two and a half inches.

Our cattle have wintered well, and we have not had to feed. However, we shall not be able to finish steers on the grass, as we have done in previous years, on account of the drought. Had the year been favorable for feed, with present prices of cattle, the cattlemen through this valley would have had an opportunity to retrieve some of their losses since the depression and dry years struck them. We have had a tedious siege of adversity.

A. DOMENGINE.

#### RANGE CONDITIONS GOOD IN EASTERN CALIFORNIA

CEDARVILLE, CAL., March 14, 1928.

#### TO THE PRODUCER:

We have had a very mild winter, with rather a light snow-pack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The ground is in good condition, making a favorable range for the present.

Both cattle and sheep have wintered well, some of the latter wintering on the open range. Our lambing will begin about April 1 and continue into May. Most of the shearing is done after lambing. The wool was contracted in December, generally at 31 cents. A few lambs are contracted at 11 cents. Ninety per cent will be disposed of. Ten and a half cents has been offered for the wether end, and in some cases 11½ cents for both wethers and ewes.

We share in the cattle shortage reported from most other sections, but those who have been able to hold on are resting easier now. Values run about \$55 a head, including all but spring calves. An offer of \$65 was recently made for a desirable herd of a thousand head, late fall and winter calves to be thrown in. It was refused.

F. E. BUSH.

# WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

## IN CONGRESS

**H**EARINGS ON THE CAPPER BILL for the regulation of private stock-yards (S. 3368) have been concluded by the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. Senator Capper and Dr. A. W. Miller, chief of the Packers and Stock-Yards Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, have been appointed to draft a report.

\* \* \*

Four government departments—all those affected by the measure—have come out in opposition to the Box bill for the extension of quota restrictions to the Western Hemisphere (H. R. 6465). Secretary Kellogg, testifying before the Senate Committee on Immigration, having before it the companion bill introduced by Senator Harris, of Georgia, based his opposition upon the effect of the proposed legislation on our friendly relations with the countries of Latin America. Secretary Jardine advised against the passage of the bill on economic grounds. His views were indorsed by Secretary Work, of the Department of the Interior. Secretary of Labor Davis held that, while his department favored placing some restrictions upon Mexican immigrants, it was opposed to putting all American countries under the quota provisions of the present act.

\* \* \*

A new farm-relief bill (S. 3555), drawn by Senator McNary so as to endeavor to meet the objections of President Coolidge to the original measure, was favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry on March 8. The bill would establish a revolving fund of \$250,000,000, to be administered by a Federal Farm Board and lent to co-operative organizations at 4 per cent, to enable them to handle surpluses of the products in which they deal. An alternative provision calls for the imposition of an equalization fee, to be levied in case co-operatives do not wish to handle the surplus themselves, and then only with the approval of the advisory council which would be set up for each commodity. The new bill also contains a provision enabling the Federal Farm Board to insure co-operatives against price declines.

In the House, on March 7, the Committee on Agriculture, reversing its action of the day before on the Haugen bill (H. R. 7940), voted to allow the President to appoint directly members of the Federal Farm Board which would be created under the bill, without being confined to a list of suggested nominees submitted by farm organizations. In this bill the revolving fund is fixed at \$400,000,000; otherwise it is much the same as the McNary bill. On March 26 the bill was reported out of committee by a vote of 15 to 6. The equalization-fee feature is retained.

The debate on the Senate bill began April 2.

\* \* \*

On March 16 the Senate Committee on Irrigation and

Reclamation, by a vote of 18 to 1 (Senator Ashurst, of Arizona), ordered a favorable report on the bill for erecting a dam across the Colorado River at Boulder Canyon (S. 728), introduced by Senator Johnson, of California. The bill would authorize an appropriation of \$150,000,000, to be repaid to the government by revenue derived from the sale of power. An amendment provides that 18½ per cent of the net revenue will go to each of the states of Arizona and Nevada. Arizona, California, and Nevada would have a preferential right to the use of the power generated by the dam.

\* \* \*

The Senate has passed a bill (S. 656), introduced by Senator Pittman, of Nevada, exempting certain short-line railroads from the recapture provisions of section 15-a of the Transportation Act.

\* \* \*

Without a dissenting vote, the Senate on March 28 passed the Jones bill (S. 3740) for flood control of the Mississippi River and its tributaries. The bill authorizes an appropriation of \$325,000,000 for the project and exempts states along the streams from contributing to the fund. On March 29 the House Committee on Flood Control formally reported the Reid bill (H. R. 8219), authorizing an appropriation of \$473,000,000 by the federal government for the same purpose.

\* \* \*

A bill for the establishment of a migratory-bird refuge at Bear River Bay, Utah, introduced by Senator Phipps, of Colorado, has been passed by the Senate.

## LIVE-STOCK TREATY WITH MEXICO

**S**OMEWHAT IN LINE with the suggestion of Colonel Ike T. Pryor for a treaty between the United States, Canada, and Mexico, mutually safeguarding the three countries against the introduction of infectious live-stock diseases, a convention was signed at Washington on March 16 by the Secretary of State and the ambassador of Mexico. While only the two governments are parties to the agreement, it is recognized that the main object will have been attained even with the exclusion of Canada. Canada imports no live stock or meats to speak of, and has herself been singularly free from the diseases at which the convention is aimed, so that danger of infection from that source is negligible.

Conferences between the United States and Mexico on this subject were first held at Washington in August, 1926, as a result of which a convention was drafted substantially in the form of the one that has now been signed.

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# THE MARKETS

## LIVE-STOCK MARKET IN MARCH

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., April 1, 1928.

**WITHOUT MOLESTING** anybody's pet theories, this assertion may be ventured: At least as a winter-feeding proposition, the common steer outclasses the qualitied bullock when financial results are desired. "Better Beef" boosters may challenge the statement, but the man who pinned his faith to good cattle has passed through a hectic winter, never knowing just where he "was at" when he reached the final stage of the operation; whereas the owner of common steers has enjoyed a stable market. Good-cattle values have hopped around in disconcerting, inexplicable fashion, varying as much as \$1 per cwt. within a few hours, while the others have rarely moved up or down 25 cents in a week. Always the latter have had prompt bids; sometimes the good ones have been carried several days. Common cattle have had competition; good bullocks have intermittently been without it. It is true that feeders of common cattle have not had so much for the gain, but margins between initial and final prices have been wide, and, although initial cost was higher than last season, returns for the gain have enabled them to make more money. One operator, who tucked away several thousand low-grade steers in the fall of 1926 at an average of \$5.60, cleaned up early in 1927 at \$8.30; last fall his average installation cost was \$8.10, and his average selling price this year \$11.50 per cwt. All feeders have made money on cattle installed last fall, but, as it has worked out, the commoner and cheaper they were when acquired, the more satisfactory the outcome has been. This is not written in eulogium of the common steer, nor in advocacy of its production, but merely to record a fact. Quality has been the under dog in the daily price controversy.

### Month of Declining Values on Top Grades

From an \$18.75 top in January, when, to use vernacular, the market went crazy, top cattle declined by fits and starts until bullocks good enough for any trade sold at \$14 at the low period of the third week of March. Then, as most people had thrown up the sponge, figuratively speaking, and apprehension of speedy reinstatement of early 1927 values developed, the market came to life, restoring the \$15 quotation within a few days. Coincidently one big packer, who had bucked the market strenuously all winter, assumed the role of leader, for no other apparent reason than a desire to get back into the beef-vending game. It is possible for a so-called big killer to run a successful bear campaign by eliminating his own buying influence, but that policy does not get him many cattle, and invariably, if carried to finality, finds him with empty coolers, and his competitors successfully flirting with his customers. Therefore resumption of packer buying activity late in March may be logically and reasonably ascribed to competition in dressed-beef circles, stimulated by a diminishing supply of decently finished bullocks. The blunder committed by feeders was in assuming that, when heavy cattle sold at \$18 to \$18.75 in January, that kind of market would continue indefinitely, ignoring the well-established fact that the late winter period never has been a season of broad demand for cattle selling at

high levels. For that matter, the \$18 to \$19 trade of December was abnormal and due to outside competition on a few outstanding loads of long-fed steers. It does not follow that a few of the same type of bullocks will not repeat 1927 performances during the latter half of 1928, especially with corn at current and prospective levels. Never has a surplus of finished cattle with weight appeared at the market under similar conditions, comparatively few feeders having learned the lesson that more money can be made finishing cattle when corn is scarce and high than otherwise.

### Yearlings in Brisk Demand

The outstanding feature of recent and present fat-cattle trade is a broad demand for 650- to 1,050-pound yearlings, both steers and heifers, at \$12 to \$14, according to what they are—and condition is as important a factor in selling little cattle as quality. Demand for light cuts of good beef is demonstrated by a \$13 to \$13.85 market for heifers. Of course, these prices have not been paid for little cattle short of flesh, but almost any kind of heifer is good property, even the dairy-bred and nondescript kind selling below \$9. Killers usually gather in the daily heifer crop before a wheel has been turned on steers, and, in the scramble for light beef, heifers lacking sufficient quality to attract feeders have gone over the scales promptly. Further emphasizing demand for cheap beef, a \$5.75 to \$7 trade in canning and cutting cows, and a butcher-cow market with \$7.50 the low side and a few heavy kosher cows at \$12.50, tells its own story. None of the product of cattle costing such money is cheap when it reaches the ultimate retailer, but it affords distributors an opportunity to pocket a rake-off, whereas consumers balk at cost of beef cut from steers selling anywhere from \$13 to \$15 on the hoof.

### Beef Trade Quiet

Dressed-beef trade has been dormant all winter. Unheralded, what amounted to a boycott has been carried on in restaurant and hotel circles. When a restaurateur is under the necessity of evicting an objectionable colored brother, he does

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is used to safeguard the wound immediately after the dehorning operation. This item, perfected after several years' research and experiment, is now used by satisfied customers in over twenty-eight states of the Union.

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the trick diplomatically by slipping him a special menu carrying exorbitant prices. Beef has been put out of circulation in the same insidious manner. It was on the card at prohibitive cost. If this expedient did not "phaze" the customer, he was told that the larder was "just out" of beef. Frequently the opportunity to disseminate a little propaganda concerning beef was injected into the conversation. All but excluded from the public eating-house sphere of distribution, beef has been restricted to private trade, and that prices have held up as well is surprising. It is a condition explanatory of preference for light and cheap cattle on the part of killers.

#### Advancing Corn Stimulates Marketing

An advancing corn market was responsible for premature marketing of many thousand warmed-up steers during March. The fact that they showed a profit stimulated liquidation,

apprehension also existing that the market was on a well-greased set of skids. Remembering what happened in 1926, feeders were not only in a mood to unload, but bankers who had supplied cattle purchase money accelerated the process. Nebraska marketed cattle freely all through the month, and was responsible for a considerable percentage of the \$13.50 to \$15 bullocks reaching Chicago. Thousands of 1,050- to 1,150-pound steers, that would have been carried thirty to sixty days longer under more favorable feeding cost, trooped to the stockyards, few of them making a return trip to the country, although feeders did secure some of the more desirable droves, from a quality standpoint, at \$12 to \$12.60. Access to these cattle enabled killers to sidestep the better grades, to the disadvantage of the latter. If steers that could not be replaced in the feed-lot at the prices they realized could have been held back, much of the vicissitude encountered by heavier and better-finished bullocks would have been avoided.

#### No Let-Up to Hog Deluge

A constant deluge of hogs kept that branch of the trade in semi-demoralized condition. Hogs continued to pile up at the market at a period when most people in the trade had confidently expected a let-up in the run. Bankers in La Salle Street and elsewhere who financed the purchase of this enormous production wearied under the load, and when, along in March, interior packers found their storage space filled with lard and meats, they let hogs in contiguous territory go to the central markets, where they aggravated the situation. During March such markets as Omaha, St. Paul, and Sioux City were constantly burdened, and at Chicago there were more than enough to go around. Europe has been a free purchaser of lard, but the foreign outlet for cured meats is, and will be, narrow until Europe is able to curtail hog production, which will be the logical sequence of rising cost of feed. Fresh-pork consumption has been of unprecedented volume, but high cost of other meats has been of no substantial benefit to pork-producers, except possibly in facilitating merchandising of their product. At Chicago average daily hog-drove cost has been right around \$8 per cwt., the big packers buying their share within a range of \$7.75 to \$8.10 largely, a few light hogs selling up to \$8.60. These prices are out of line with corn at \$1 per bushel, but the hog has made an outlet for a vast quantity of corn of indifferent quality, and sent a steady stream of cash back to the country. But for the hog, corn would not have been worth anywhere near \$1 per bushel, and much of it would have been unmerchantable. The whole country has been gorging on pork, fresh and cured, for six months past, and would switch to beef if that meat was available at reasonable cost.

#### Lambs Selling at Satisfactory Prices

A late winter lamb market with a range of \$16.50 to \$17.50 per cwt. has established an era of good feeling in feeding circles. Western feeders have needed no red ink to compute the season's results, and are in a mood to contract new-crop lambs to the full extent of their yardage capacity for next winter's operations. Early contracting of new-crop lambs has been done at \$10.50 to \$11.50, the object with many buyers being to get the ewe end of the crop as breeding stock. Colorado has had a prosperous season, for which judicious marketing has been at least partly responsible; but the puzzle is the manner in which distributive trade has absorbed a large percentage of lambs weighing 95 to 105 pounds at prices not far from the summit, or what handy-weight lambs realized. After all the declamation concerning unpopularity of heavy lamb and indisposition of consumers to buy it at any price, a demonstration of adaptability to customers' require-

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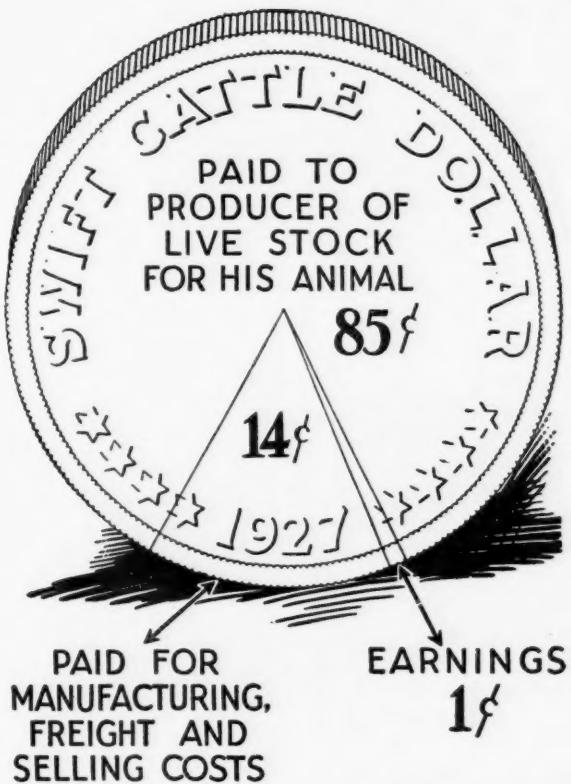
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From every dollar which Swift & Company received in 1927 from sales of beef and by-products an average of 85 cents was paid to the producer of live stock for his animal; 14 cents was required to pay manufacturing, freight and selling costs, and one cent remained as earnings. Out of his 85 cents the farmer has to pay the cost of the animal and the expense of feeding and marketing before he makes any profit.

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ments has been made, as the dressed market has been a robust affair right along. Packers have been open at least to the suspicion of supporting the market, as every 25-cent break has been promptly repaired, and speculators have had no difficulty in reselling their purchases to the big killers. If the winter market had been the result of a short crop of lambs, there would be less reason for surprise over the gratifying manner in which it has acted. A few lambs, excessively overweight, have sold at from \$15.75 down to \$15.25, but scarcity and high cost of fat sheep made this possible, as fat ewes have sold up to \$10—largely at \$9.50. The high winter lamb market has generated enthusiasm over wool- and lamb-raising, insuring heavy investment in breeding stock all over the country during the coming season, although losses sustained early in the winter by Corn Belt feeders will make them chary about laying in thin western lambs next fall.

### SUMMER MARKET OUTLOOK

BY JAMES E. POOLE

**S**UMMER CATTLE PRICES depend on several factors, among them industrial activity, which gauges demand, the number on feed, and beef-gathering in the grazing areas west of the Missouri River. At least two factors are adverse to free beef consumption—industrial depression and current high cost; neither of which was operative a year ago. Another factor is cheap pork—a food that promises to be abundant for several months, as hog-growing is reacting to low prices resultant from recent overexpansion, production following price as usual.

Statistics, at least of the reliable type, are lacking, but it is a cinch bet that the number of cattle on feed at this period over the entire finishing area is substantially less than a year ago, especially in territory east of the Mississippi River. Assessors' returns demonstrate this. The crop of steers that went into feeders' hands last fall has been either attracted to market by profitable prices or impelled in that direction by advancing feed cost, uncertainty about future market conditions, a disposition to take a profit, and anxiety on the part of bankers carrying feeding loans to count their money, especially where borrowers needed additional loans for feed. Bankers have ignored the axiom that more money can be made feeding corn on a rising than on a falling grain market. As replacement is costly, many feed-lots will remain untenanted when the present crop of beef is marketed. So

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far as western beef-gathering is concerned, all the handwriting on the wall suggests that tonnage marketed from that quarter will be considerably lighter than in 1927.

Current slaughter is running far behind that of the corresponding period last year. Despite free liquidation of merely warmed-up steers during March, incidental to advancing feed cost, the ten principal markets received but 586,000 cattle, against 661,000 in March, 1927, and the proportion of steers weighing over 1,250 pounds was substantially less than a year ago. February slaughter under federal inspection was 666,079, against 700,423 last year, and there is promise, if not certainty, of a diminishing comparative ratio right along. During the eight-month period ending with February, 1928, cattle slaughter under federal inspection figured 6,323,185 head, compared with 6,962,251 during the same period ending February, 1927.

High prices, however, are seriously restricting beef distribution. Every possible effort is being made by killers and distributors to merchandise hog product at the expense of beef. Monotonously each week the retail interest circulates propaganda with that object, announcing that pork is the cheapest food.

From the feeder camp comes protest against current cost of stockers and feeders, and yet some of the wisest heads in the business have been filling their feed-lots at going prices, paying up to \$12.60 per cwt. for fleshy feeders, and anywhere from \$10.50 to \$11.50 for light cattle. Despite cost protest, demand, especially for light cattle, is insatiable, and will continue to be if a good grazing season develops. An increasing sweet-clover acreage is responsible for stocker demand.

Prices are being well maintained west of the Missouri River, despite audible pessimism. Harking back to what happened subsequent to 1920 is absurd, as a new set of conditions has been created. Then the country was full of cattle, rendering liquidation imperative; meanwhile a deficiency has occurred, and the industry faces a gigantic rehabilitation task. All over the trans-Missouri region cattle are being bought on local account, whereas, even as late as a year ago, the eastern pilgrimage was of large volume.

In the Southwest calf-contracting began earlier than ever, and early prices were higher than at the peak of the war period. It has been a \$40 to \$45 trade in calves, one bunch of calves selling in the Panhandle at \$46.50. What Corn Belt feeders will pay for calves is conjectural, depending on feed conditions and the summer yearling market. With fat yearlings selling anywhere from \$12.50 to \$14 per cwt., the signs are propitious. As high as \$107 per head has been paid for three-year-old steers in the Southwest, and \$100 is the popular price for the few available. Coming two's have sold at \$75 to \$80 per head, or 11 to 11½ cents per pound, for April 15 to 25 delivery, and yearlings have realized \$55 to \$60 per head, same delivery. The movement to Kansas pastures will be adequate to grass capacity, but that to the Northwest will be negligible. Kansas pastures will, however, get few three's, two's predominating, with a generous sprinkling of yearlings.

Cows are scarce and advancing in value. In the Panhandle a few have sold at \$75 to \$90 per head, with calves by side. Yearlings have been taken for fall delivery at 10½ to 10¾ cents per pound. In the Northwest good cows with calves are held for \$100.

Sheep and lamb prospects are excellent. Western feeders are disposed to contract wether lambs for fall delivery around \$10.50 per cwt., but breeders are not in that mood. Straight bands have been contracted at \$11.50 to get the ewe end, which commands a premium. Demand for yearling ewes is urgent all over the country, this winter's phenomenally successful

fat-lamb market having stimulated investment. The Corn Belt states are determined to install sheep, to get away from excessive hog production and dodge advancing cost of stock cattle. A few are going into beef-cattle breeding, but where a shift is necessary the dairy cow has the call, the area claimed by that industry expanding rapidly.

Corn Belt lamb-feeders have lost money on two crops of western lambs, and intend to "lay out" this season, unless they can get in at lower prices. However, feed is always the major factor, and a good summer fat-lamb market, coupled with a large corn crop, will change their views. Some states, especially Michigan, are building up flocks with the intention of growing enough lambs for winter feeding, on the theory that, especially when shrinkage and transportation cost are reckoned with, native lambs are more economical. Michigan feeders put in native lambs at \$10 per cwt. last fall—a price satisfactory to the grower and profitable to the feeder. If the experiment succeeds in Michigan, the practice will spread. Eastern farmers have lost their town market for hay and oats in consequence of the motor truck and pleasure automobile, and need some substitute product. This year's lamb production promises substantially to exceed that of 1927, and, despite a healthy wool market, prices may recede, although the spring and early summer fat-lamb market is pregnant with promise.

Viewed broadly, the live-stock production promise is not depressing. Cattle-feeders must reconcile themselves to narrower margins, hogs must eventually advance, and, if consumption is increased, expansion of the lamb industry does not necessarily imply unprofitable prices, but the problem of producers lies in the sphere of more economic production, this applying both to breeders and feeders. Protest that it is impossible is emphatically answered by those who are making progress in that direction.

#### THE DENVER MARKET

BY W. N. FULTON

DENVER, COLO., April 3, 1928.

THE GREATER PORTION of the cattle supply at Denver during March came from northern Colorado. Average quality was good. Killers prefer light cows and heifers to steers, and many of the half-fat steers received during the month went out to feed-lots for further finishing. Good-quality steers were selling at \$12.50 to \$13.50 early in March, while desirable grades were bringing \$11.50 to \$12.50 late in the month, with choice kinds quoted up to \$13.50. Cows that sold at \$8.50 to \$9.25 a month ago were bringing much the same prices at the close of March, with choice cows at \$9.35 and heiferish kinds up to \$9.75. Heifers were selling early in March at \$10 to \$11, with a top at \$12 for fancy kinds, while at the close good heifers brought \$10.50 to \$11.50, and up to \$11.75 for choice grades. Good-quality feeders and stockers were selling at \$11.25 to \$12.50 early in the month, while at the close they were quoted at about the same prices. Indications point to a good demand for good fat cattle during the month of April. Available supply is not heavy, and, with a healthy demand anticipated, there is every reason to look for very satisfactory prices for well-finished stock.

*Hogs.*—Despite the fact that hog receipts continue heavy at all points, the market held up well during the month of March. Good-quality hogs were selling at the close of February at \$8 to \$8.15, while tops sold a month later at \$8. However, good hogs went up to \$8.30 about the middle of March, and

since the first of April choice grades are selling up to \$8.25. Storage facilities are reported filled with surplus pork, which is responsible for the prediction in some quarters that prices will not advance much in the near future. Other prophets, however, believe the big hog runs to be about over for this season, and look for lighter supplies and better prices within the next month or six weeks.

*Sheep.*—Sheep and lamb trading was active under strong demand, and prices closed sharply higher. Good-quality fat lambs were selling on this market at the close of February at \$14.75 to \$14.85, while choice grades went over the scales a month later at \$16 to \$16.10, the latter price being within a dime of the high point of the season thus far. The \$16.20 peak price was paid about a week earlier. Good fat ewes are selling at \$9 to \$9.50, while the price for good grades a month ago was \$8.50 to \$8.75. Indications point to a continuation of

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good prices throughout the season. Less than one-third of the lambs fed in northern Colorado remain to be marketed, and, with seven or eight weeks in which to distribute them at market, the outlook is good for continued high prices.

**Horses.**—Horse trade was fairly active during the month. Demand was strong for good-quality work-horses and mules, and for good fat cotton mules, and prices remained fully steady at the advance of the month before. Desirable heavy work-horses and mules sell at \$100 to \$175 a head, with good chunks at \$60 to \$100, and lighter horses from \$50 down.

### LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

APPENDED ARE TABLES showing receipts, shipments, and slaughter of live stock at sixty-seven markets for the month of February, 1928, compared with February, 1927, and for the two months ending February, 1928 and 1927:

#### RECEIPTS

	February		Two Months Ending February	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
Cattle*	1,045,149	1,079,915	2,317,545	2,407,424
Calves	470,706	475,441	969,331	979,580
Hogs	5,267,150	3,308,282	10,572,990	7,559,945
Sheep	1,669,473	1,500,666	3,374,132	3,240,317

#### TOTAL SHIPMENTS†

	February		Two Months Ending February	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
Cattle*	416,909	411,577	930,226	912,072
Hogs	1,809,737	1,315,028	3,659,228	2,842,294
Sheep	729,464	669,004	1,434,407	1,488,440

#### STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS

	February		Two Months Ending February	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
Cattle*	174,757	162,446	390,053	349,544
Calves	19,316	12,738	37,698	30,265
Hogs	75,397	94,177	152,868	192,848
Sheep	101,064	136,153	217,441	343,525

#### LOCAL SLAUGHTER

	February		Two Months Ending February	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
Cattle*	618,729	658,614	1,333,354	1,436,042
Calves	342,159	353,470	707,965	712,065
Hogs	3,456,834	2,005,511	6,899,505	4,699,685
Sheep	945,409	829,197	1,939,572	1,749,876

\*Includes calves.

†Includes stockers and feeders.

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### COMPARATIVE LIVE-STOCK PRICES

BELOW ARE FIGURES showing prices on the principal classes and grades of live stock at Chicago on April 2, 1928, compared with March 1, 1928, and March 28, 1927:

SLAUGHTER STEERS:	Apr. 2, 1928	Mar. 1, 1928	Mar. 28, 1927
Choice (1,100 to 1,500 lbs.)	\$14.25-15.00	\$15.25-16.75	\$11.75-13.80
Good	13.25-14.75	13.50-16.25	10.50-12.75
Choice (1,100 lbs. down)	14.00-14.75	14.75-15.75	11.50-12.50
Good	12.75-14.25	13.00-15.25	9.75-11.75
Medium	11.25-13.25	11.00-13.50	8.75-10.50

#### YEARLING STEERS:

Good to Choice (850 lbs. down)	12.50-14.25	12.50-15.25	9.25-12.25
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#### HEIFERS:

Good to Choice	9.75-13.75	9.75-13.25	7.75-11.00
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#### COWS:

Good to Choice	8.75-11.25	8.25-11.25	6.85- 8.65
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#### FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS:

Good to Choice (800 lbs. up)	11.00-12.50	11.00-12.50	8.00- 9.50
Common to Medium	9.00-11.00	8.75-11.00	7.00- 8.00
Good to Choice (800 lbs. down)	11.00-12.50	10.75-12.00	7.85- 9.25
Common to Medium	8.25-11.00	8.25-10.75	6.75- 7.85

#### HOGS:

Medium Weights (200 to 250 lbs.)	7.90- 8.55	8.10- 8.50	10.65-11.65
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#### LAMBS:

Medium to Choice	14.75-17.15	14.25-16.50	14.50-16.75
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### HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

BELOW IS A SUMMARY of storage holdings of frozen and cured meats on March 1, 1928, as compared with March 1, 1927, and average holdings on that date for the last five years (in pounds):

Commodity	Mar. 1, 1928	Mar. 1, 1927	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef	43,967,000	60,659,000	73,226,000
*Cured beef	19,736,000	27,361,000	26,198,000
Lamb and mutton	4,010,000	4,074,000	3,529,000
Frozen pork	263,707,000	177,876,000	176,529,000
*Dry salt pork	159,767,000	101,156,000	150,466,000
*Pickled pork	460,266,000	392,642,000	434,734,000
Miscellaneous	71,489,000	59,230,000	73,129,000
Totals	1,022,942,000	822,998,000	937,811,000
Lard	121,354,000	77,103,000	86,577,000

\*Cured or in process of cure.

### PROSPECTS ARE FOR HIGHER WOOL

J. E. P.

WOOL PRICES have been advancing all over the world, and now that the Australian and New Zealand season has closed, further purchasing in that quarter is impossible. The close there was at the top price of the season. The goods market is slowly, but surely, developing, manufacturers being confident of a broad spring trade. Contracting in the West has subsided, but March trades in that quarter were at advancing prices.

Expectancy of further advances is based on a sound manufacturing situation and the firm undertone of foreign prices. The last series of London sales advanced cross-breds 5 per cent, Merinos holding firm. Europe is still in need of wool, having bought Australian wools freely, despite unsatisfactory quality and poor selection.

At eastern concentration points business is of limited volume, because many dealers have little wool to offer. Manufacturers have been operating cautiously, buying only such wools as they had to have, and awaiting new-clip arrivals. That

they are working on a hand-to-mouth basis with respect to raw material is conceded, which should insure a cordial reception for the advance guard of the new western clip. There is at present a healthy demand for wool to keep spindles and looms running, which is making a market for pulled and scoured stock, also by-product. Stocks of medium pulled wools have dwindled, until holders are demanding, and getting, prices that would have been considered absurd early in January.

Territory wools are strong. Idaho and Wyoming report transactions up to 40 to 41 cents, and in the bright-wool sections it is difficult to buy below 45 cents, although country dealers are bidding 43 cents, without getting much. Eastern stocks of bright wools have been reduced to a point where immediate delivery is impossible; in other words, fresh consignments from interior points are necessary to taking care of current demand. Indiana and Illinois quarters have sold at 51½ cents at the seaboard.

Dissemination of propaganda designed to curb the rising tendency of prices has been abandoned, as the hope is futile. Every scrap of handwriting on the wall points to still higher prices, and a strenuous contest between buying and selling interests, when the new clip becomes available, is inevitable. Meanwhile the residue of the 1927 clip is being disposed of at a substantial profit to owners. Those who possess desirable packages have no difficulty in getting customers.

Early clips are not due at concentration points until late in April, and the goods market should have acquired a stride by that time. There is not a scrap of pessimism in trade circles.

Late in March, mills displayed interest in wool for future delivery, indicating orders for certain lines of goods. If this continues, an active summer market is certain.

### HIDE TRADE BULLISH

**HIDES HAVE ADVANCED** 90 to 100 per cent in value during the past year, and the market is "going good" at the appreciation. Reduced leather stocks, contracted domestic cattle slaughter, and a healthy footwear trade are bullish influences. Packers are constantly sold up, and are not disposed to contract current take-off for future delivery. Late in March branded packer cows sold at 23 cents and heavy native cows at 23½ cents. At St. Paul 25 cents was paid for heavy native steers. The evident trend of packer hides is upward, and country product will inevitably follow. Independent packers are asking 25 cents for all-weight native cows, with every prospect of making the grade. Big packers have accumulated orders and are insistent on more money. While it is no runaway market, tacking on one-half to one cent between trades is not difficult.

### FEEDSTUFFS

**COTTONSEED CAKE AND MEAL**, f. o. b. Texas points, was selling on April 3 for \$51.30. Quotations on the Kansas City hay market on April 2 were as follows: Prairie—No. 1, \$11 to \$13; No. 2, \$8 to \$10.50; No. 3, \$4.50 to \$7.50; alfalfa—No. 1 extra leafy, \$28 to \$32; No. 2 extra leafy, \$25 to \$28; No. 1, \$23.50 to \$25; No. 2 leafy, \$21 to \$23; No. 2, \$18 to \$20.50; No. 3, \$11 to \$17.50; timothy—No. 1, \$12.50; No. 2, \$11.50 to \$12; No. 3, \$9.50 to \$11.

"I enjoy THE PRODUCER very much, as I am a pioneer cattleman and find news in it that I cannot get out of other papers."—H. A. SMITH, Denver, Colo.

## TRADE REVIEW

### FEBRUARY'S FOREIGN TRADE

A SLUMP IN EXPORTS from the previous month, and a corresponding gain in imports—the latter largely due to heavy purchases of raw silk abroad—characterized February's foreign trade. The figures, quoted from *Bradstreet's*, were these:

	February		Eight Months Ending February	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
Exports.....	\$373,000,000	\$372,438,000	\$3,283,034,000	\$3,398,647,000
Imports.....	353,000,000	310,877,000	2,752,521,000	2,796,567,000
Excess of exports.....	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 61,561,000	\$ 530,513,000	\$ 602,080,000

### EXPORTS OF MEATS IN FEBRUARY

EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS and animal fats from the United States for the month of February and the two months ending February, 1928, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1927, were as below (in pounds):

#### BEEF PRODUCTS

	February		Two Months Ending February	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
Beef, fresh.....	192,946	210,987	389,879	424,784
Beef, pickled.....	529,922	1,237,913	1,145,863	2,746,122
Beef, canned.....	212,123	299,314	378,706	552,536
Oleo oil.....	4,629,362	9,266,046	8,968,899	15,701,154
Totals.....	5,564,353	11,014,260	10,878,347	19,424,596

#### PORK PRODUCTS

	February		Two Months Ending February	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
Pork, fresh.....	1,389,406	509,188	2,643,133	1,076,432
Pork, pickled.....	2,622,822	1,950,274	4,766,284	3,816,563
Bacon.....	10,901,944	9,642,004	22,562,156	19,657,180
Cumberland sides.....	264,169	286,836	690,416	954,567
Hams and shoulders.....	10,976,121	9,510,739	20,980,989	19,388,588
Wiltshire sides.....	33,211	36,056	154,169	77,323
Sausage, canned.....	228,488	334,616	445,945	720,411
Lard.....	79,871,799	49,883,625	150,531,509	109,725,564
Lard compounds.....	569,229	1,372,363	1,053,553	3,451,816
Neutral lard.....	2,576,532	1,731,417	4,670,425	3,284,904
Totals.....	109,433,721	75,257,118	208,498,579	161,848,348

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# FOREIGN

## LIVE-STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALASIA

BY A. C. MILLS

[*Special Correspondence to The Producer*]

MELBOURNE, February 14, 1928.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION appointed by the Queensland government to inquire into the beef-cattle industry, and advise how best it can be placed on a more economic footing, is busy taking evidence. Though its proceedings have been held *in camera*, it is known that the chief line followed in the early inquiries had reference to the organization of killings for the local trade. Queensland at present has no state or municipal abattoirs, such as exist in the south, slaughtering being done at small yards owned by individual butchers, or at the various meat-packing plants on the coast. The latter, however, do not cater for the local trade to any extent.

With regard to the private yards, it is claimed by the advocates of public abattoirs that killings there are necessarily wasteful, and probably insanitary. The waste occurs in that there are no facilities for saving or commercially treating many valuable by-products of the slaughter-house. Large things—like hides, horns, hoofs, etc.—are kept, but the less obvious by-products are lost.

With the object of centralizing killings at the larger towns, and so overcoming the waste, to the betterment of cattle values, it has been proposed that certain of the existing packing-plants should be used as public abattoirs. It is a proposition that has been on the tapis for some time, and now the commission is taking it in its stride. As a matter of fact, the commission has already recommended that the Lakes Creek works should be utilized in connection with the meat supply of Rockhampton—an important seacoast town of central Queensland. There is, however, a condition attached to the recommendation which makes it difficult to carry out. This is that centralized killing is not to increase the cost of meat to the consumer, or entail any charge on the state.

I am inclined to think that it is in that respect that the proposition will fail. When graziers have advocated public abattoirs, they have usually stressed the point that they will make for more economical killing, and thus enable higher

prices to be paid for stock. On the other hand, the butchers who operate the small yards claim that municipal or state abattoirs will increase costs to consumers. Wages and overhead charges in connection with a slaughter-yard attached to a butcher shop are practically nil, the owner doing the work himself, and, while some by-products may be wasted, their value, if saved, would nothing like cover the high operating expenses attached to a public abattoir. There is a good deal of truth in this, and, as there is a risk of city labor electorates being affected by the change, it is doubtful if the government will back the public-abattoir proposition.

The beef-export season has opened with quite an unusual flourish, Queensland packers being able to offer relatively high prices for fats, which is having a reflex action on values all around. Most of the Brisbane district works, and one in the central Queensland division, are now killing for the oversea trade. The Brisbane companies have been buying cattle fairly freely in the country on a flat-rate basis of \$6.96 per 100 pounds, dressed weight, delivered, while the central concern is giving \$6.36 per hundred; but the latter will not have any rail charges to meet. These prices apply only to early deliveries, and to mobs that are expected to yield at least 90 per cent of first-grade beef. Some of the companies were paying as high as \$7.68 a hundred in January for first-grade ox-beef supplies drawn from the Enoggera yards, Brisbane; but, with heavier offerings, the rate there has since dropped back to \$7.20 and lower.

When it is mentioned that the opening rate in the country last year was in the region of \$5.76 per 100 pounds, dressed weight, it will be seen that there has been an appreciable rise. The main, but not sole, factor responsible for it is the recent sharp advance in the value of hides, due to strong buying orders from the United States and Russia. If the advance in hides can be maintained during the currency of the meat-export season, it will probably mean the difference between working at a loss or a profit to most cattlemen. So long as the export price remains up, values for local consumption are bound to keep relatively high.

Most of the cattle country of Queensland has had good rains, and there is a strong inquiry for breeders and feeders. Recent sales have been reported of forward two-and-a-half-year-old steers at up to \$28.50 a head, while good-grade cows are worth fully \$25. In the southern states, where the market is inadequately supplied, fat bullocks are fetching up to \$120 per head, and choice light weights up to \$82.50. That represents a beef cost of up to \$13.20 per 100 pounds; so it is not surprising to hear that a moderate quantity of chilled beef is being brought south from Brisbane. It has to be sold on the quiet, as housewives have a decided prejudice against anything but fresh-killed meat.

The little information that has come to hand regarding the proposal fathered by the Argentine ambassador at Washington for holding a world's meat conference has not roused much enthusiasm on this side. It is gathered that the ambassador discussed a proposition with the Australian high commissioner in the United States, and suggested something in the nature of an international meat institution, with permanent headquarters at a center to be determined. Apparently the body would summons annual conferences of meat-producers, packers, and butchers, for the object of carrying out propaganda to increase the consumption of flesh foods in different countries, and, if possible, bringing about a reduction in the cost of production and distribution. How the scheme is to be financed is not mentioned, though it is obvious that expenses would be enormous.

A good deal of New Zealand has lately been passing

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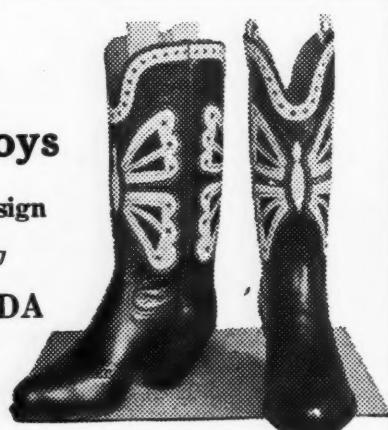
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through a worrying dry spell, which has affected the cattle country of the North Island. Although pastures are going off, stock is still keeping in fair to good condition, and, for New Zealand, a large number of cattle are being killed for the export trade. One firm of packers that has a share in a British War Office contract is slaughtering steadily in the Taranaki province, and paying fully \$7.20 a hundred for its supplies. Fat bullocks suitable for the local retail trade are selling at from \$60 to \$75 per head in the North Island, and from \$80 to \$95 in the South Island.

### EAST AFRICA AS A CATTLE COUNTRY

**I**T MAY SURPRISE MANY to learn that East Africa is a cattle country of sufficient importance to merit attention. Nevertheless, in the opinion of "Fulahn," writing in the *Pastoral Review* of Melbourne, the day is not far distant when it will rank among the premier beef-export countries of the world.

By "East Africa" is meant all of British Africa north of the Transvaal, including the mandate of Tanganyika—the pre-war German colony of East Africa. This immense territory extends 3,000 miles north and south, and covers an area of 1,218,400 square miles. No less than 8,000,000 head of cattle are owned by the natives, but at present the holdings of Europeans are limited to 750,000 head. This number, however, is rapidly increasing, and a vigorous effort is being made by the ranchers to establish a meat-export trade with Great Britain.

"On all sides is being asked: 'Why, if the African natives own 8,000,000 head of cattle, do they not trade them?' The answer is that, from the white farmer's point of view, the black man makes no use whatever of his stock. He will not sell or barter cattle except as a last resource. When he does sell, he sends his worst beasts to market, and only does so to buy grain in famine time, or to raise taxes, or to buy some unusual luxury. The African's chief use for cattle is to pay dowry for wives. One to twenty cows and oxen is the usual price for a wife in an African kraal."

"Nor does the native kill cattle for meat. Curdled milk, mixed with ox blood, is a staple African diet. But oxen are not slaughtered to get blood. It is drawn by puncturing the neck of the living beast with a blunt arrow. The wound is then plastered with clay and heals."

"Cattle are slaughtered only as sacrifices to tribal 'gods,' at birth, marriage, funeral, and other feasts, the sole exceptions being oxen which cross their eyes, or gnash their teeth, or pick things up with their tails. These are killed because they are believed to be bewitched."

The average native ox turns the scale at 600 to 800 pounds, but the African's ideas of herding tend toward the degeneration of his stock. By day the herds are grazed on the plains and in grassy forests. Some tribes graze early to get dewy grass, while others believe dew to be harmful. No artificial food is given. Should the grass give out, the tribe moves to fresh pastures. But a continued drought takes appalling toll of native animals, as no fodder of any kind is harvested against such a contingency.

"When beasts go sick, a witch doctor is called in to find out who has cast an evil 'spell' on them. Bleeding, by the neck puncture or by clipping the ears, is a common cure for disease."

"Calves are reared by the mothers, and, if the cow dies, are bottle-fed with a hollowed calabash. The cows hold their milk unless the calves are with them, and, if the calf dies, its skin must be kept and shown to the cow at milking time for that reason. At night calves are stabled in the bedrooms of the native huts, but adult cattle are herded promiscuously in a stake or thornbush inclosure in the open. . . .

"Within the past few years government markets have been established throughout East Africa to encourage natives

to realize cattle values. Ten years ago one box of matches would buy an ox in any kraal. Today an ox or cow in the native village costs ten to twenty shillings (\$2.50 to \$5). . . .

"To the white rancher East Africa offers wonderful opportunities as a cattle country. Except on the low-lying sea coast, cattle thrive both on plain and highland. Pasture throughout the country is rich in grass of the most nutritious kinds. The wet and dry seasons are well defined, and rain is invariably sufficient to carry well over. The rich soil of the tropics and sub-tropics yields astounding results in crops of maize [corn], lucerne [alfalfa], roots, and grains, which can be grown literally at a moment's notice at a minimum of expense and trouble. Black labor is plentiful and cheap. . . .

"Drawbacks exist, owing to the prevalence of rinderpest, pleuro-pneumonia, east-coast fever, and other tick-borne diseases, and in some parts the tsetse-fly limits the grazing area. But native cattle have acquired a local immunity to most cattle diseases, and veterinary research is coping successfully with epidemic diseases on the white farms. . . .

"The future of East African cattle is in the systematic grading-up of native stock with pure-breds."

### CATTLE IN LOWER CALIFORNIA

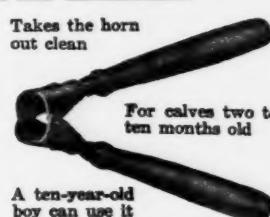
**N**OTHING BETTER than a rough estimate can be made of the number of cattle on the ranges of Lower California, Mexico, says Leighton Hope, American consul at Ensenada, in a recent report. It is believed that there are between forty and forty-five thousand head. Only four ranches have more than one thousand head. All cattle are bred and raised on the ranges, and practically none are fed. Most of the range is open government land, used without payment of rent. Except in years of considerable rainfall, it is dry, and grass is very scant. During favorable years the hills and canyons, and especially the small valleys, are covered with native grasses, and a large number of succulent weeds and herbs, the principal of which is called alfilaria—a wild clover that grows in great profusion. Due to the dry climate, after the rains cease for the season this herbage dries on the ground and becomes excellent feed. It is said that one of the greatest misfortunes that can happen to cattle herds in this country is a freak summer rain after the forage has dried—never anywhere nearly enough to produce new vegetation; only sufficient to rot and ruin that already dried on the stalk. There are a large number of shrubs, like scrub-oak brush, holly, several of the sages, and mesquite, that will keep cattle through from one scant season to another. In very dry years some enterprising old Mexican ranchers feed to some extent on cactus, of which a number are susceptible of use. It is, however, no inconsiderable labor to free this plant from spines.

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# ROUND THE RANGE

## LIVE-STOCK AND RANGE REPORT FOR MARCH

*Ranges.*—Winter ranges generally carried a good supply of feed at the beginning of March, except on a few desert sheep ranges, according to the monthly report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. A slight seasonal decline was found in some states, but rains had greatly improved spring prospects in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. In the northern states and west of the Continental Divide the soil was well supplied with moisture for spring grass, except

that more was needed in Nevada, California, eastern Colorado, and parts of western Kansas and Nebraska. Wheat pasture had been short in Oklahoma and Kansas. The western states were well supplied with hay and other feeds. In sections where range feed was short concentrates had been used. Some irrigated sections had a surplus of hay.

*Cattle.*—Cattle on the ranges and ranches had come through the winter in very good condition, with only the customary shrink in flesh. Losses had been lighter than usual, and cattle of all classes were in strong condition. Breeding cows were in good shape, and prospects for the 1928 calf crop were promising. Cattle on feed for market had made favorable gains, and a considerable number had been sold. A strong demand had developed in the Southwest for cattle, at

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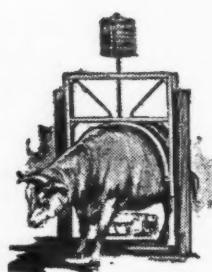
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very good prices. High prices had had a tendency to restrict restocking and buying for spring delivery in some sections. Condition of cattle was placed at 89 per cent of normal, which was the same percentage as a year ago.

*Sheep.*—The weather had been favorable to range sheep, which had wintered very well. Ranges were generally open, with some feeding where desert range was short. Rains had improved sheep ranges in the Southwest. Early lambing had been good, with a few more ewes lambing than last year. The western states had a million more ewes than a year ago. Wool-contracting continued strong, with prices generally ranging from 34 to 40 cents in the north, and 37 to 43 cents in Texas. Lamb-contracting became active, with prices at 10 to 11½ cents. Condition of sheep and lambs was 92 per cent of normal, compared with 93 per cent a year ago.

### CROP OF EARLY SPRING LAMBS

The size of the early lamb crop in the principal early-lambing states is estimated by the government to be about 8 per cent larger than last year. Condition of the crop in March was about average. Weather and feed conditions since January 1 have been quite varied in the different states, but on the whole were not so favorable as during the first months of 1927. The movement to market in volume will start somewhat later than last year. Total supply of spring lambs at eastern and middle-western markets before July 1 will probably exceed that of last year, according to the report.

### HORSE-FLESH FACTORY DOES THRIVING BUSINESS

Wild horses from the plains of the Far West, as well as incapacitated animals from nearer home, were shipped to Rockford, Illinois, at the rate of about one hundred a day, during last year, for the purpose of being converted into food for the people of central Europe and for zoo animals in America. The slaughtering plant of Chappel Brothers was erected shortly after the World War, when the owners, who had been members of the American Expeditionary Force, conceived the idea of shipping horse meat to Europe, where they had found the demand to be greater than the supply. An average of \$2 a head is paid for range horses, while lame or blind animals from the farm often bring as much as \$10.

### CO-ORDINATION OF MARKETING ASSOCIATIONS

As the result of an extensive survey of the co-operative marketing of live stock, a national service organization for the development of a definite program is recommended by C. G. Randell, of the Department of Agriculture, in Technical Bulletin No. 57-T, entitled "Co-operative Marketing of Live Stock in the United States by Terminal Associations."

In the membership of such an organization it is proposed to include all the efficient co-operative live-stock marketing associations in the country. The organization would serve to co-ordinate and strengthen the movement, and to eliminate rivalries among the various groups. Control would be in the hands of representatives of the boards of directors of member associations. An official organ would be published, which would give information to live-stock producers and discuss their marketing problems.

### OLD-TYPE STEER WANTED

The International Live Stock Exposition at Chicago is searching for "a large steer of the old-style type which was in favor when the first fat-stock show was held in Chicago in 1878." The 1928 International will be held the same week in December that this early show was staged on Chicago's Lake Front half a century ago, and it is the plan of the management to commemorate the anniversary by having on exhibition an example of the old-type bullock as a contrast to the baby beefeves of today.

The heaviest bullock shown in 1878 was a grade Shorthorn steer, 2,162 days old, standing 5 feet 5 inches high at his shoulder, and weighing 3,155 pounds.

Anyone knowing of a steer measuring up to these specifications should communicate with Secretary-Manager B. H. Heide, Union Stock Yards, Chicago.

### GLAND-GRAFTING IN RAMS

An international veterinary commission recently visited the French government sheep farm at Tadmit, southern Algeria, where experiments in gland-grafting are being carried out by Dr. Voronoff. The official report is not yet available, but, according to statements that have appeared in the press, grafted rams were observed to have gained 22 pounds in carcass weight and 1½ pounds in fleece weight, compared with ungrafted ones. The length of staple in the case of the progeny of grafted rams was found to be considerably greater than that of ungrafted sheep.

### POPULATION OF UNITED STATES 120,013,000

As of July 1, 1928, the total population of the United States has been estimated by the Bureau of the Census at 120,013,000. This number compares with the 105,711,000 enumerated by the census of January 1, 1920. The figure is arrived at by calculating the increase since 1920 on the basis of the available data regarding births, deaths, immigration, and emigration.

### ANOTHER SON OF A MULE

Another of the rare horse-mule or ass-mule hybrids, of which only about half a

dozen specimens are on record, has come to light in Nebraska. "Ichabod," three-fourths ass and one-fourth horse, was born in Hayes County in July, 1926, and is now installed at the College of Agriculture in Lincoln. He is strong, well developed, and travels like a horse. He will be used for "laboratory work in genetics"—which probably means that further crossings will be attempted.

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Contagious abortion plays havoc with a herd, once it gets started.

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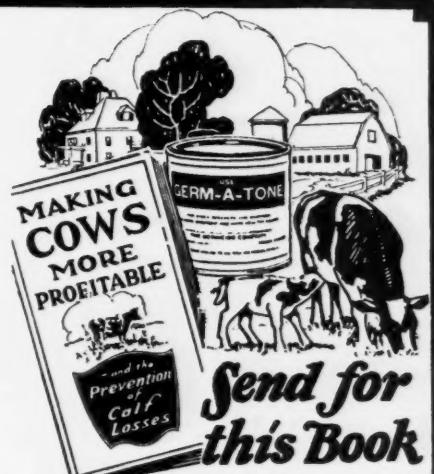
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safeguards your herd by inhibiting germs taken into the digestive tract. Mix with the salt. Cattle love its taste and treat themselves. Also effective for sheep and hogs. GERMATONE is safe, scientific, and inexpensive.

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method of saving calves and increasing  
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New York ranks fifteenth.

The investigators ought to have come to Denver during the late coal strike!

**TRAFFIC THROUGH PANAMA CANAL**

A new record was reached by traffic through the Panama Canal in 1927, when 6,085 vessels passed through the isthmus, carrying cargoes of a total tonnage of 29,102,538 and paying tolls amounting to \$26,231,022. The figures for 1926 were 5,420 vessels, 27,586,051 tons, and \$23,901,540 in tolls. By nationalities, the ships and cargoes last year ranked as follows:

Nationality	No. Vessels	Tons Cargo
United States	2,799	15,346,389
British	1,617	6,984,325
Norwegian	298	1,159,997
German	249	1,073,720
Japanese	176	1,055,047
Panaman	123	81,002
French	120	571,524
Dutch	117	627,487
Italian	103	412,833
Swedish	102	630,282
Colombian	73	27,114
Peruvian	68	112,337
Danish	55	328,364
Spanish	45	89,048
Yugoslav	44	243,270
Danzigian	33	165,942
Chilean	29	78,549
Belgian	15	73,574
Equadorian	7	2,138
Greek	6	35,744
Costa Rican	3	.....
Finnish	2	3,300
Honduran	1	552

**THE SPICE-BOX**

**Precious Gift.**—"No, my friend, I don't take whisky. If I had a drink of whisky, I should be able to taste it for a couple of days."

"Hoots, mon! Can ye no' see ye ha'e been granted a precious an' remarkable preevilege by th' Almighty—an' ye are no availin' yersel' o' it!"—Sydney Bulletin.

**Prayers Needed.**—A Scotchman had been told by his doctor that he had a floating kidney. He was much disturbed by the diagnosis, and went to the minister of his church with a request for the prayers of the congregation.

"I don't know," said the minister dubiously. "I'm afraid that at the mention of a floating kidney the congregation would laugh."

"I don't see why they should," replied the sufferer. "It was only last Sabbath you prayed for loose livers."—Wall Street Journal.

**Silent Mischief.**—A. H. writes: "The mosquito is like a child; the moment he stops making a noise you know he is getting into something."—Boston Transcript.

**White Pine Trees—All Sizes**

**Amer. Arbor Vitae; Hard Maples**  
Beautiful, strong trees for windbreaks, ornamentals, hedges, reforestation, or shade.

**Lilacs**—the old-fashioned 3 in a cluster  
Write for Price List

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1,900 Yearling Ewes  
640-acre Ranch, Well Improved  
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Ewes are cross-breds, extra large, and extra good shearers. Can depend upon 12 pounds' wool average, with good care. Majority are March lambs, so will furnish a big lamb crop, 100 per cent, or better, first year. March lambs average over 80 pounds.

600-acre ranch cannot be excelled for a sheep ranch. Old water rights; spring water in 4 different fields. Near forest reserve.

Land at sacrifice, and sheep at market price. Can buy part of outfit.

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9,000 acres, in wheat belt; near mountains; close to small town and school; mostly fenced; altitude 7,000 feet; good farming; 15 inches rainfall; good water; grama grass; winter browse and protection; beautiful country and climate; sheep or cattle. \$5 an acre. Address EVON Z. VOGT, Vogt Sheep Co., Ramah, N. M.

**Improved Ranch For Sale**

2,000 acres, adjacent to graded road; fenced into fields and pastures; watered by river; productive soil; 250 acres of crop land; raises best of alfalfa seed; fruit orchard; timber; fine, well-kept buildings.

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Lock Box 121, Vale, S. D.

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**MEXICAN RANCH**

ONE of finest ranches in Sonora, 2 miles from Nacozari; approximately 58,300 acres, completely fenced; clear title; natural springs; water and grass year around. Price, \$87,450; \$25,000 down, balance to suit.

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**RANCHES**, large or small, for sale, exchange or lease in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana, California, Canada, Central and South Americas, Africa, and islands of the sea. J. D. FREEMAN, Gunter Bldg., San Antonio, Texas.

# Capper-Hope Amendment Opposed

**I**N OPPOSING the Capper-Hope bill, which is a bill to amend the Packers and Stock-Yards Act, the National Live Stock Producers Association, through its representative before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, offered the following statement:

Some of the features of the bill are acceptable to the National Live Stock Producers Association. In fact, some of them are, we think, already provided for in the present act. Other features of the bill we hold not to be harmonious with our best interests as stockmen. Therefore, since all provisions are presented as one bill, we are compelled to oppose its passage, although we would have much preferred to have seen each proposal considered on its individual merits. The reasons why the National Live Stock Producers Association is not favorable to Senate Bill No. 3368 are:

## **I. The Premises of the Bill Are Objectionable.**

We cannot concur in all the premises on which the bill is predicated, and which are presumably intended to guide the secretary and the courts in their decisions. Some are at least controversial, and should not be accepted as guidelines in legislation so important and far-reaching as this.

## **II. The Present Packers and Stock-Yards Act Has Not Been Exhausted.**

We believe the resources of the Packers and Stock-Yards Act, as it now stands, have not been exhausted. The present act confers sufficient authority upon the Secretary of Agriculture to investigate the alleged Mistletoe irregularities and, if found true, to proceed in the manner prescribed by law, which has been effectively employed in correcting certain evils existing in other places. Furthermore, with rapidly changing means of transportation, methods of handling live and slaughtered stock, we doubt very seriously whether now is the time to establish definite plans by which the live-stock industry would be governed. We might further observe that the problem complained of, and for which a remedy is sought, seems to be a state or regional one, and state and district courts should, it seems, be exhausted before resorting to national legislation.

## **III. The Bill Nullifies the Provisions of the Capper-Volstead Act.**

The proposed amendment to the Packers and Stock-Yards Act nullifies provisions of the Capper-Volstead Act as applied to live-stock marketing. This may not be the intention of the author of the bill, but, as it now stands, that is the effect. The amendments so far suggested to the amendment or bill are not sufficient. The terms "market agency" and "dealer," which apply to co-operative associations, must be clarified, both in the amendment and in the present act, so as to exempt co-operatives. Furthermore, the theory of the entire bill is not in harmony with co-operative thought and effort. It grants to the Secretary of Agriculture a virtual discretionary power over the live-stock industry. That is not only diametrically opposed to the principles of co-operation, but it is un-American in tendency.

Therefore, because of these and other reasons, the National Live Stock Producers Association believes Senate Bill No. 3368 should not become a law.

## THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

608 South Dearborn Street  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

### TERMINAL MARKETING AGENCIES

Producers Live Stock Commission Ass'n, Fort Worth, Texas  
Cattle Raisers & Producers Commission Ass'n, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Producers Co-operative Commission Ass'n, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Evansville Producers Commission Ass'n, Evansville, Indiana  
Producers Co-operative Commission Ass'n, Cleveland, Ohio  
Producers Co-operative Commission Ass'n, East Buffalo, New York  
National Stock Yards, Illinois  
Chicago Producers Commission Ass'n, Chicago, Illinois  
The Michigan Live Stock Exchange, Detroit, Michigan  
Producers Commission Ass'n, Sioux City, Iowa  
Producers Commission Ass'n, Kansas City, Missouri  
Peoria Producers Commission Ass'n, Peoria, Illinois  
Producers Commission Ass'n, Indianapolis, Indiana

## **IV. Grants Unlimited Discretionary Powers to the Secretary of Agriculture.**

This bill confers upon the Secretary of Agriculture, not only executive, but judicial authority. With the unlimited discretionary powers granted the Secretary of Agriculture, the law might become the determining factor in establishing the live-stock marketing policy of the country. We do not believe the live-stock marketing policy of the country should now be legislatively determined, or its determination vested in one governmental agency for the ensuing years. To place the great live-stock industry of the entire country in the hands of the Secretary of Agriculture—a political appointee—might only add new vicissitudes, and certainly would not lend to the industry the stability to which it is entitled.

## **V. Direct Marketing and Buying Is a Controversial Subject.**

Whether direct marketing and direct buying should be eliminated is a mooted question. We have indicated that, as a co-operative live-stock marketing association, we are engaged in the direct buying of feeder stock—a project which is being so generally accepted by ranchmen and feeders alike, and which we are being urged to develop rather than quit. As co-operative market agencies and dealers, we utilize the same type of facilities—the small yards—as are used in the direct shipping and buying which the bill seeks to eliminate. It is a fact that the Secretary of Agriculture could not fairly and satisfactorily, under the provisions of the bill, stop direct buying in some sections and condone it in others. If small yards come under the provisions of the act in one state or section, they must be similarly considered in other sections. The terminology of section 302-b specifically includes small yards, and might be construed by an incoming secretary to include feeding stations, assembling yards, and even large feed-lots. The proponents of the measure have stated that small yards are not included. Then eliminate section 302, paragraph b, and settle the matter by law, so that there will be no question in the minds of any of the parties concerned. If it is not the intention of the proponents to include small yards, why include them in the bill?

## **VI. Practical Administration of the Bill Would Be Both Difficult and Costly.**

Practical administration of the bill as drawn would be very difficult, and would result in many complications and embarrassments to the parties concerned. Supervising all the assembling yards and small markets of the country would entail tremendous cost of administration.

**SHIP  
YOUR STOCK  
TO  
CHICAGO  
THE  
LIVE STOCK MARKET  
OF THE WORLD**